CARDIFF'S CIVIC CENTRE

A HISTORICAL GUIDE

BY

EDGAR L. CHAPPELL

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City Hall and Law Courts, Cathays Park, as seen from Cardiff Castle

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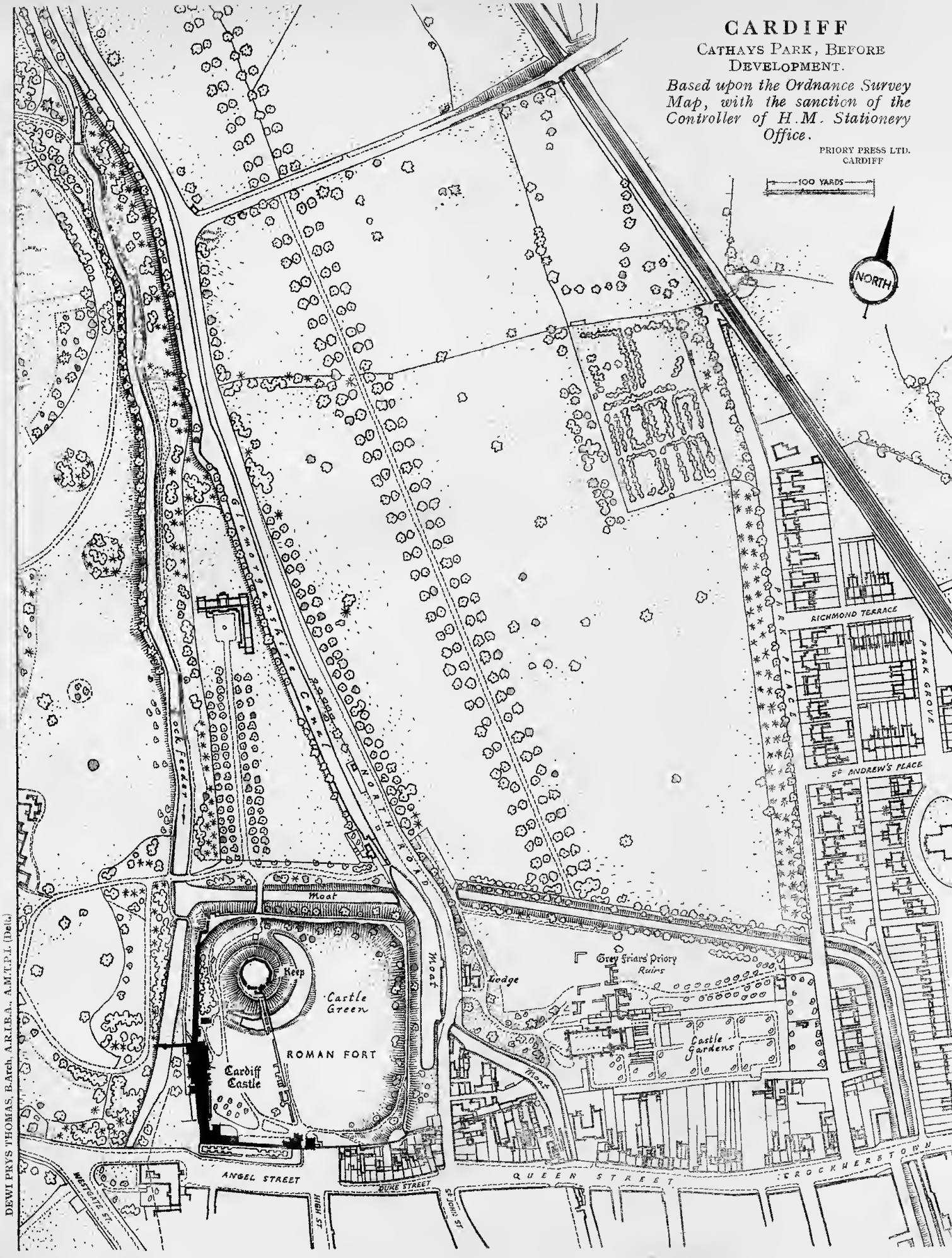
COUNCILLOR GEORGE WILLIAMS, C.B.E.



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INTRODUCTION

By Councillor George Williams, C.B.E.
Chairman of the Estates and Development Committees of Cardiff

I thank the Directors of Priory Press Ltd. for the opportunity of introducing to the Citizens of Cardiff, and to Visitors to its Famous Civic Centre this little book by my old friend County Alderman Edgar L. Chappell. This is another of his contributions to our knowledge of Cardiff's Historical Past.

The lifework of Mr. Chappell, in the main dedicated to Public Service, his advocacy of Planning, for Town and Country, Better Housing and Education for the Workers, and his investigations into Agricultural Conditions, has earned the gratitude of the people of Wales.

The recent purchase of the Glamorgan Canal, the negotiations now proceeding for the acquisition of the Castle and its extensive grounds and the Pontcanna Fields, bring the River Taff into a Planned Scheme which with Llandaff Fields, Cathays Park and its Beautiful Civic and National Buildings will be comparable with any of the World's Great Cities, and will enhance Cardiff's already strong claim for recognition as The Capital of Wales.

I have great pleasure in recommending this work to all who are interested in Cardiff and its Civic Centre.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

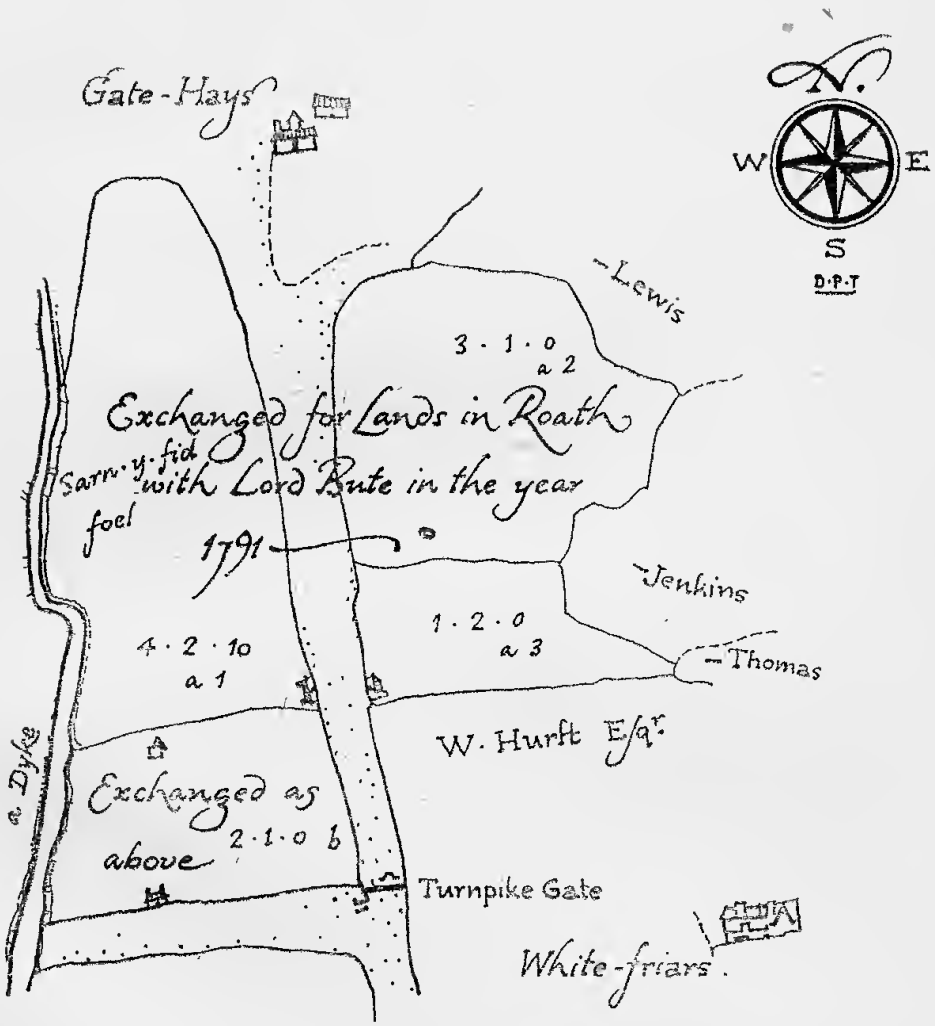
FOREWORD

CARDIFF is renowned throughout the world for its fine assemblage of public buildings, grouped together artistically amid beautiful surroundings on a single well-planned central site, in which are housed the administrative staffs and cultural activities of some of the leading institutions established for the service of the Welsh nation. This Civic Centre has been visited, especially during the recent World War, by civil and service representatives of most of the Allied Nations, all of whom have been loud in its praise and have returned to their own countries to spread still further Cardiff's fame as a city of civic enterprise and artistic taste. Unfortunately no satisfactory brochure has been available for the use of visitors and it is the need for such a handbook which prompted the writing of this "handy guide." Although the chief aim of the author has been to satisfy a need felt by strangers, he has incorporated in it much information of a historical character which may have a greater appeal to resident citizens who desire to have fuller details relating to the origins of the Civic Centre and of the movements associated with the various buildings erected therein. I hope, therefore, that this will tend to widen the appeal of the guide and will serve as a useful contribution to the rapidly growing body of material relating to the historical development of the City.

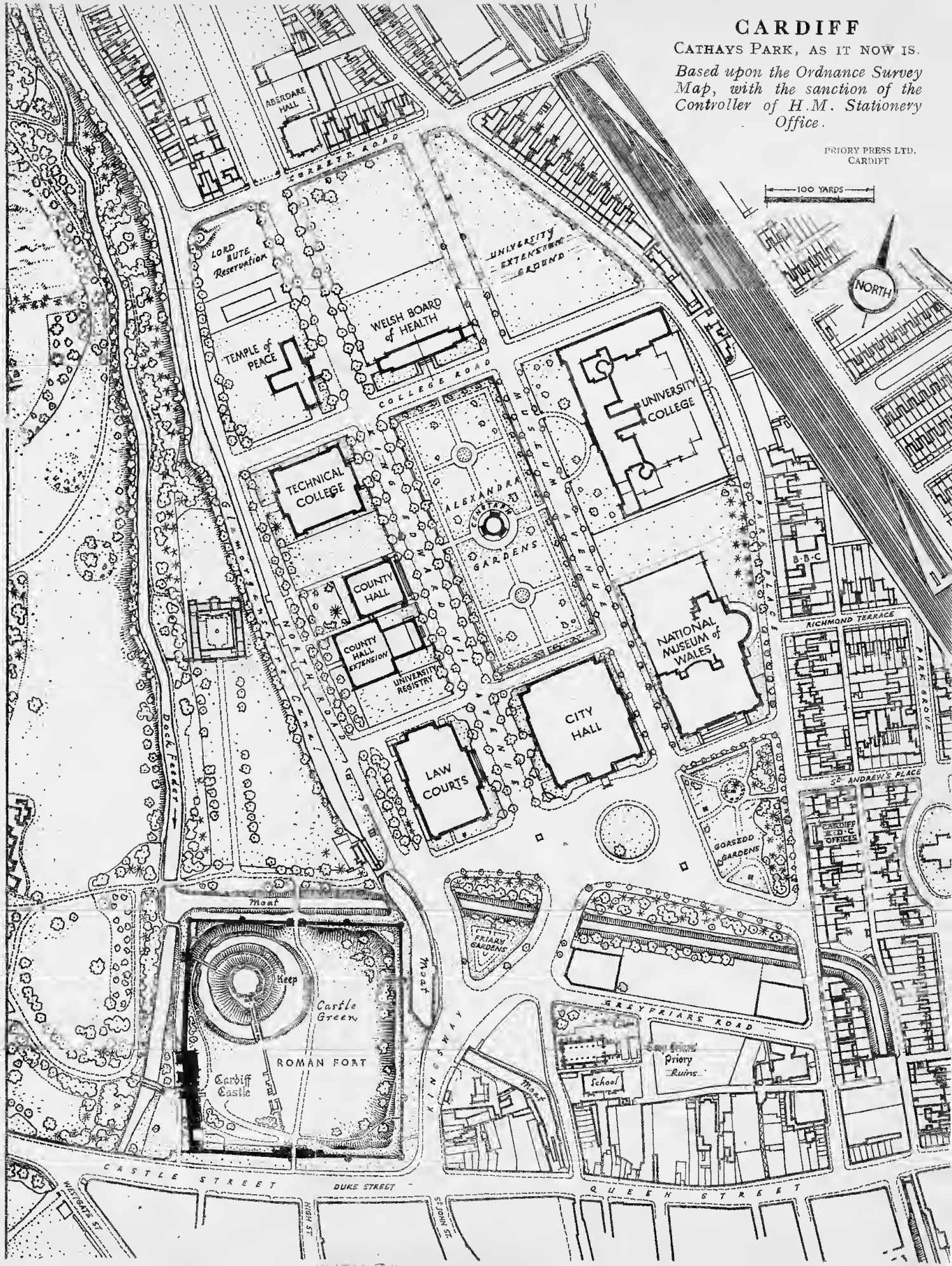
The writing of this essay would have been impracticable but for the special facilities granted to me by Mr. Edmund Rees, of the Cardiff Library and his courteous and knowledgeable staff who spared no pains to place at my disposal the valuable printed and manuscript resources of that notable institution. For the illustrations of the work I am indebted to Mr. G. H. Allin, of the Cardiff Corporation Development Department, for the loan of a part of his large store of photo. blocks. I want also to thank Mr. N. V. Sair, of the City's Town-Planning Department, for preparing for me two plans showing the Civic Centre as it was before its acquisition by the Corporation and as it is today. I also wish to acknowledge assistance rendered to me in other ways by various other persons and bodies.

EDGAR L. CHAPPELL.

January, 1946.



GATE-HAYS AND EXCHANGED LANDS.
Extracted from Tredegar Estate plan, 1764. (*See page* 8).



DEWI PRYS THOMAS, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I. Del.

Old Town Hall, St. Mary Street

City Hall, Cathays Park

King Edwards Avenue, with South African War Memorial in Foreground

Cardiff Development Committee

I. HAYES AND CATHAYS.

The name Cathays, like that of Canton (*Canna** and *Tun*, the farmstead on a now non-existent brook, Canna) flavours of the Far East, and many persons seem to think they had some association with Cardiff's overseas trade with China. Actually, however, both names were in existence many hundreds of years before Cardiff became a great shipping centre, and like many other local names, are linked up with a very early chapter of the town's history. The name Cathays Park, on which Cardiff's magnificent civic centre stands, on the other hand, dates only from the period of the association of the Bute family with the borough.

What is the origin of the name Cathays? This question cannot easily be answered, and some knowledge of early history is necessary for its explanation. When the Norman Robert Fitzhamon, a follower of William the Conqueror, seized Glamorgan about 1081, he set up his *caput* or headquarters in a small settlement which stood near the ruins of a Roman fortress on the left bank of the River Taff. The hamlet probably consisted of a small mixed population of Danish, Anglo-Saxon and Welsh extraction, and was named *Caer-dyf* (the fort on the River Taff), or alternatively (*Caer-tyfi*) the fort of the mounds, these mounds being the ruined outer defences of the ancient stronghold).†

Fitzhamon or his successor desired to attract merchants and artizans to settle near his headquarters to serve the needs of his garrison and of his various manors and of the manors bestowed by him on his friends and chief supporters. To encourage the advent of new population he promised the citizens protection against attack from the native Welsh and other possible enemies and exemption from the customary manorial obligations under Feudal law. The old Roman fortress was strengthened by Fitzhamon and his successors to the Lordship of Glamorgan, and in addition some rude timber fortifications were built around the extended township. In later days the latter were replaced by stone walls.

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*Whence also Pontcanna, the bridge over the brook Canna. This brook had its source on Pontcanna Farm and after a wandering course joined the River Taff at a point where now stands Brook Street.

† Some authorities favour *Caer+tyf*, the latter element being described as an adjectival form of Taf. The earliest forms are *Cardiviae* (1081), *Kardi* (1102), *Kairdif* (1106). The late Dr. D. R. Paterson is responsible for the Caer-tyfi theory, *tyfi* neing a Scandinavian term for mounds. The Welsh form *Caerdydd* was derived later by a natural change from *dyf* to *dydd*. The commonly accepted derivation of *dydd* from Didius, a Roman general, is undoubtedly fanciful and is without satisfactory backing. There is some support for the theory that the element *tyf* is a corrupted form of *Tibia*, a Roman name for the river Taff.

To ensure the prosperity of the town he restricted the residence of persons who got their living by buying and selling to the *burgh* (fortified place) or borough of Cardiff, and to other burghs later established elsewhere in Glamorgan. These privileged boroughs became the market towns of the Lordship; the territory outside these towns was referred to as *Upland*.

The citizens or *burghers* of Cardiff were exempt from military service, from compulsory labour on the Lord's land and other onerous feudal obligations, and were allotted areas of land for the erection of their dwellings, workshops, shops, and gardens. For these privileges they each paid the Lord an annual sum of 12d. Each holding was known as a *burgage* (in some towns also as a *haw*, *hay* or *hey*), and the system of tenure based on money payments was known as *socage* or *burgage tenure*.

The areas of the burgages varied, but the more usual unit was about an acre; in time, as the town developed, many burgages were divided into half burgages, quarter burgages, etc. Such subdivision probably occurred for the most part in the localities adjacent to the Castle, and these localities became the chief business centres. The more remote burgages possibly retained their original form and size for centuries, and were largely used for purposes of cultivation. That part of Cardiff within the town walls now known as the Hayes, south of Wharton Street, preserved much of its ancient character right down to the early years of last century.

In this part of the ancient borough the burgages were enclosed, and the name given to the enclosures was *Hayes*, a term which exists in various forms in this country and on the Continent. In the 16th century the locality mentioned was known as Hayes (1550), Lez Hayes (1557) and The Hayes (1563), but the name was probably in existence centuries before this period. A plot of land referred to as *Sokshey* in 1492 is probably an earlier form of the same name. The element *soke* probably indicated that the plot was held on socage or burgage tenure, whilst the second element *hey* denoted that the plot was enclosed.

The name Hayes (or in singular form *haw* or *hay*) seems to have been derived from O.E. *haeg* (a hedge, or secondarily, land enclosed by a hedge) or from a Scandinavian form, *hagi*, bearing the same meaning. The Latin *haia* and the French *haie* are other forms of the same term. The name occurs in various parts of this country. The town of Hay (Breconshire), for example, was known to the Normans as La Haie Tailée, and to the Welsh as Y Gelli Gandryll, meaning "the forest clearing". The term is also applied to farms at Sully, Reynoldston (1540) and in Devonshire, and also occurs in many compound names denoting clearings in forests, moors and heaths.

The Cardiff street name "The Hayes" is a relic of the ancient locality name, and another near-by street, Wharton* (16th century *Worton*), supposed by some to be derived from *Wyrt-tun*, a garden, also recalls the appearance of the locality in byegone days. Wharton Street at one time extended into the present Working Street and it may be that the latter is another rendering of *Worton*, although it should be noted that other interpretations of the name have been suggested.

Outside the walls of the medieval town was a tract of waste or common land where Cathays Park now stands, and this may well at one time have formed part of the extensive common (enclosed in 1803), known as the Little and Great Heaths, which extended from Woodville Road as far as Rhiwbina and Llanishen. Even as late as the 18th century there were areas of land now part of Cathays Park described in town records as waste land.

With the development of the borough the limited area within the enclosed town became inadequate to serve the needs of the citizens, and there was an overflow of population possibly outside the North Gate which stood near the south-east corner of the Castle wall, and also along the old Roman Road outside the East Gate (which stood near the entrance to the present day Queen Street Arcade), later known as Crockherbtown and today as Queen Street. This extension took place fairly early for a record of about 1171 refers to a grant by the then Lord of Cardiff, William, Earl of Gloucester, to the Church of the Blessed Mary and the Blessed Martyr Thomas (*i.e.*, Thomas Becket), which he built about this period, of a sum of 10/- of his yearly rents from "my new Borough which I have made where my garden was outside the town of Cardiff."

Possibly part of the land lying to the north of the town wall and to Crockherbtown was made available for these out-dwellers as well as for the burghers resident within the walls, and some of it may have been used for cultivation or pasture by the former residents either for their own account or as employees of richer citizens.† To this locality the name Cathays was probably given at an early date, although the earliest known record of the name only goes back to 1682, when it occurs in the form *Cate Hayes*.

Other early forms of the name are Catt-Hayes (1699, 1715), Katt Heys (1728), Kate Hays (1750), Gate Hayes (1764), Cathays (1716-17, 1725, 1738, 1749, 1759, 1785-6, 1793-4, 1803), Catt hay (1773).

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* *A. S. Wyrt*; a plant or herb, particularly of the cabbage kind and *tun*, garden.

† Professor Wm. Rees: "Outside the defences were the town fields where the townsmen grew their corn, and pastured their cattle." (*The Book of Cardiff*, p. 60).

The element *hays* in Cathays is obviously the same word as the Hayes within the town, meaning the enclosures or burgages, but much speculation has taken place as to the meaning of the element *cat,* which occurs not only in the local name but also in the name Cataye (1603) at Bristol and in Cathays on the south bank of the River Thames in London, and forms part of many place names in different parts of the country.

For example, in the names Catbrook and Catsash (Monmouthshire), Cadeby, Cattall, Catfoss, Catton, Catwick (Yorkshire), Catsey (Huntingdonshire), Catshill (Worcestershire), etc. There was also a Cattspitte near Pyle in the 13th century, and a stretch of water off Plymouth Sound bore the name Catte-water. In the northern European countries the element occurs frequently in place names, *e.g.*, Cattegat. Professor William Rees also mentions an enclosure in the ancient Forest of Strigoil (Monmouthshire), known as Catshayes and Catteshayes this place being identical with the modern hamlet of Catsash, near Langstone (Monmouthshire).

The late Dr. Paterson, who was an authority on the Scandinavian element in South Wales place nomenclature, has given two possible explanations of the term:—

(1) He states that in Scandinavian countries and in North Germany the term *Kat* or *Catt* is often used to denote something small, secondary or subsidiary, and suggests that the local name refers to small, subsidiary pieces or allotments of land (or town fields), attached to early burgage holdings, outside the town walls. If this interpretation is correct the name Cat-hays was used to distinguish the holdings from the Soke-hays within the town, the former being of *secondary importance* to and dependent on the latter.

Colour is lent to this theory by the fact that the term *Cat,* bearing the sense "small," often occurs in this country in dialectic words, *e.g.*, catboat, a small sail boat; catnap, a short nap, etc.

(2) Dr. Paterson further states that the term *Katt* was also frequently used in fortified Danish towns of the Middle Ages to denote raised places such as look-out points on the ramparts, the name being associated with a ballistic engine known as the *Catt,* used for siege purposes. On account of the proximity of Cathays both to the walls of the Castle and of the town it may be that the name was derived from some high place or watch tower on the ramparts. There was such a watch tower on the south-east corner of the castle wall, and another on the north-east corner of the old town wall at a point to the rear of the present-day Carlton Restaurant. Dr. Paterson points out that the name *Katt hagen* (a near

PANORAMIC VIEW OF CARDIFF CIVIC CENTRE

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City Hall, Cathays Park

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equivalent of Cathays) was always associated in old Hamburg and other Danish towns with fortifications. Under this theory Cathays would seem to mean the "hayes" overlooked from the watch tower.

It is commonly admitted by place-name authorities that Dr. Paterson was inclined to over-emphasise Scandinavian influences in South Wales place-names, and it will be well therefore to note other alternative explanations by other writers:—

(3) Dr. B. G. Charles,* another writer on Scandinavian place names in Wales, derives Cathays from O.E. Catta (a cat) + haeg (enclosure), meaning presumably "The enclosures haunted or frequented by wild cats." Many English place names containing the first element have been authoritatively derived from their association with this type of animal.

(4) J. Hobson Mathews† derives the term "cat" from the Welsh *cad* (Irish *cath*), a word meaning "battle," which suggests the interpretation "battlefield enclosures." In making this suggestion he possibly had in mind the statement that Robert Fitzhamon finally overcame the native Welsh in a battle stated to have been fought on the Heath near Cardiff. In this connection it may be noted that the stream name Catbrook (Trelleck to Tintern Parva) is mentioned in the 13th century Book of Llandaff as *cat-frut* (modern Welsh *cad-ffrwd*, battle brook).

(5) Another suggestion is that *cat* is a form of an ancient personal name, O.E. *Catta*, O.N., *Kati*. Many English *cat* place names, *e.g.*, Cattall, Catton, Catfoss, Catwick, Cadeby, etc., are known to have been derived from personal names, and it is possible—although there is no evidence to support the supposition—that Cathays is another form of Cati's Hays.

(6) A less likely theory is based on the form *Gate-hays*, mentioned in a Tredegar Estate map of 1764, as the name of an ancient house at the north-west corner of Cathays Park on the enclosed plot now known as "the reserved acre." If this or a similar form preceded in date the Catt or Katt forms in the foregoing list, the theory would be a very probable one, for such a form might well have come from the A.S. *geat*, *gat* (Scandinavian *gate*, Danish *gatt*, Sanscrit *ghat*, etc.), a word denoting a door, gate, passage-way or road. At Cardiff such a form might well have been associated with the north gate of the town and the road leading therefrom into the upland pasture country.

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* Non-Celtic Place Names in Wales.

† Cardiff Records, Vol. V, p. 351.

According to Sedgefield‡ the name *gate* "has in the North of England developed the meaning of the right or privilege of pasturage for cattle, etc., either free on *common* land or by arrangement on private ground." The element *gate* frequently occurs in English place names, *e.g.*, Aiketgate, Leegate, Stargate, Oldgates, etc.

The foregoing discussion is necessarily inconclusive, but on balance, pending the accession of earlier forms of the name, Dr. Paterson's first suggestion under which Soke-hayes and Cat-hayes denote land allotments within and without the town seems most worthy of acceptance. Of one thing only, however, may we be certain, that there is no truth in the at-one-time popular theory that the *cat* element in Cathays was derived from the practice of drowning unwanted cats in the castle moat!

‡ "Place Names of Cumberland and Westmoreland."

II. HOW LORD BUTE ACQUIRED CATHAYS PARK.

It has long been a popular assumption* that the Bute family derived their Cardiff lands by marriage into that branch of the Herbert family which sprang from the William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who in 1550 received from Edward VI a grant of castles and manors in Glamorgan. That some Cardiff lands went with this gift is highly probable, but the site of Cathays Park was certainly not so acquired, for until the late 18th century the Bute holdings in this locality (if any) were very small.

Even the Greyfriars land was not included in the Herbert Grant, for it was in possession of a branch of the Herbert family before the date of the grant. After the suppression of the monasteries in 1538 the Grey Friars' property was sold in 1546 to James Gunter and William Lewis, and in the following year it was resold by them to Sir George Herbert of Swansea and Cogan Pill, from whom in later years it passed to his grandson, Sir William Herbert, of Greyfriars. Near by, and out of materials from the old Friary buildings, the latter erected before 1578 the Herbert Mansion (called Whitefriars)†, remains of which, with the foundations of the old Friary Church, are preserved within the railed enclosure adjoining Greyfriars Road.

A branch of the Herbert family lived at Whitefriars until about 1730, after which year the house seems to have been allowed to fall into decay. Greyfriars was acquired by the Bute family by purchase from the Herberts of Cogan in 1790.

The land to the north of the Friary estate belonged at different periods to a number of owners, including the Corporation of Cardiff. Numerous references occur in 18th century records to properties owned by the Corporation in the "Upland," a locality which included the area of the present Cathays Park. A considerable part of this area comprised two farms known respectively as Cathays and Dobbin Pits, and there were also a number of other parcels of land in the possession of various owners. The Cathays homestead stood at the north-west corner of Cathays Park within the enclosure today known as the "Reserved Acre," whilst Dobbin Pits§ stood on or near the site of the northern portion of the University College. The lands of the former probably lay around the house and also extended northwards. Dobbin Pits is referred to in a record of 1492, and its lands probably extended eastward and

* Largely due to a series of articles published in a local Liberal daily, the "*South Wales Daily News*", in 1893 and subsequent years, which caused the town council to embark upon the important task of assembling together and publishing in six massive volumes the "Records of the Borough of Cardiff."

† A mistake for Greyfriars which has led some writers to conclude that there was formerly a Carmelite fraternity settled at Cardiff.

§ Records of 1314 and 1326 mention that one John Dobin lived in this district.

south eastward beyond the line of the modern Taff Vale Railway. It also included the site of the College.

A 1715 record shows that the Corporation then owned the house called "Catt Hays," which in 1713 had been leased for 21 years to one Felix Howell at an annual rent of £1, and also a cottage and garden adjoining which had been let on lease since 1699. Later references both to Cathays and Dobbin Pits occur in Corporation rent rolls for 1728, 1738, 1750, 1773 and 1786. During the 18th century much of the land in the Cathays Park area was waste, and in 1773, in connection with the letting of Cathays and Dobbin Pits, permission was given to the tenants to enclose waste land and to cut down elm trees, subject to replacing the felled trees with new plantings. For example, in that year the lease of Dobbin Pits lands which had expired was renewed to Henry Lewis for 21 years, together with "all the waste land there, as well as the waste land which had been enclosed by John Jones." The right of enclosure was also granted to other tenants. One received "also the waste lands there adjoining to Catt Hays fields, with liberty of inclosing the same" in return for a yearly rental of £1.

The Corporation, however, were not the only—perhaps not the chief—owners of the land. A plan prepared in 1764 for the Morgan family of Tredegar shows that an extent of 12 acres of land lying on both sides of North Road, including the sites of the Technical College and Glamorgan County Hall, belonged to the Morgan family, whilst adjoining sites to the east were owned by persons of the names of Lewis, Jenkins and Thomas. The owner of the land on part of which the Law Courts now stand is given as Hurst. In a "*Rate Book for the Town of Cardiff*,"* 1788, Hurst and Jones are cited as owners of 16 acres, "Upland the Friars," John Morgan of 4 acres "adjoining the Friars," and John Richard, Junr., of 4 acres "Upland Cae Clwyd Fole"† (possibly land adjoining the Castle on the north), whilst R. Jenkins held 19½ acres. By this year the Bute family and Lord Cardiff seem to have acquired an interest in several parts of the uplands, for they are mentioned as being "landlords" of Cathays land (probably as lease-holders), 3 pieces of upland, 12 acres of Dobbin Pits and another lot of 12 acres probably farther east. There were also several other small owners.

It will have already been noticed that in the 18th century the name Cathays seems to have been limited to the farm and lands near the

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* Cardiff Library M.S. 3.602.

† On the Tredegar Map of 1764 a four and a half acre field on the west side of North Road is described as *Sarn y fid foel*. *Sarn* is a raised road or causeway. *Y fid foel* seems to be a corrupted form of *y fidwal*, the camp, fort or castle, Sarn y Fidwal was therefore an ancient name for North Road and meant the road to or from or past the castle." *Clwyd* means "gate," Across the road adjoining the site of the present day Law Courts stood at this period a Turnpike Gate. The elements *clwyd* and *bid* seem to have been confused. The full name was possibly *Cae Clwyd Sarn y Fidwal* the field near the gate on the castle road."

north-west part of Cathays Park, a general description which had not yet come into being.

How and by whom was the Park formed? It has already been stated that Sir William Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, received from Edward VI in 1550 the Castle and Lordship of Cardiff, together, it seems likely, with certain parcels of land appertaining to the Lordship. His Cardiff possessions, whether acquired by grant or purchase, remained in the possession of his family until the death of the seventh earl in 1683. This person left no heir, and his Welsh property passed to his daughter Lady Charlotte Herbert who in 1703 married as her second husband Thomas Viscount Windsor. Lady Charlotte died in 1733 and her husband in 1738.

Their son, Herbert Hickman, second and last Viscount Windsor, succeeded to the property. He married Alice Clavering, and had two daughters. He died in 1758 and his widow in 1776. The elder daughter, Lady Charlotte Jane, married in 1766 Lord John Mountstuart, Earl of Bute (created Baron Cardiff in 1776 and Marquess of Bute in 1796). By this marriage the Herbert possessions and associations with Cardiff passed to the family of Bute.

Mountstuart seems to have conceived the idea of restoring the Norman stronghold, improving the residential quarters therein, and establishing an extensive private park in the vicinity of the Castle, probably about the time of his elevation to the Barony of Cardiff. These alterations to the Castle fabric and grounds were apparently not in accord with the architectural taste of the period and were severely criticised by several late 18th century topographical writers. Nor apparently was the residential portion of the structure satisfactory, for during his visits to Cardiff the owner seems to have stayed at the near-by Cardiff Arms Inn.

Lord Cardiff was a wealthy man, apart from the resources brought to him by his wife; by his second marriage in 1800 to a daughter of the wealthy London banker, Thomas Coutts, he became even richer. He was, therefore, well able to add to his possessions at and near Cardiff Castle. He seems to have acquired land by lease and purchase and by exchange of lands with other owners. The Tredegar Estate Map of 1764 referred to above is endorsed with a statement that the lands in question were "exchanged" for lands in Roath with Lord Bute in the year 1791. About the same period, according to John Bird,* he purchased lands either for himself or on his wife's behalf adjoining the Friary (possibly the Hurst land).

In some cases, either directly or in the name of an agent, Lord Bute leased areas of land the freeholds of which were acquired later. Thus his chief agent, Henry Hollier, in 1785 and again in 1793 and 1794

* The Bird Diaries, Cardiff Library MS. 2,716.

leased from the Corporation lands at and near Cathays, and also land adjoining the Castle on the west. In 1803, during the period of the Heath Enclosure proceedings, a big exchange of lands was arranged between the Corporation on the one part and the Marquis of Bute and his heir, the Earl of Dumfries, on the other part. Amongst the lands transferred to Bute by the Corporation were:—

"Kays"* House	£205	4	0
Waste before Cathays, etc. ...	90	0	0
2 fields near Cathays	254	5	6
Waste behind Cathays, etc. ...	68	0	0

The Corporation also transferred certain properties in or adjacent to the approaches to Cathays Park, viz. :—

"Town Ditch in White ffryars (now the Canal near Friary Street) ...	£30	0	0
2 houses in North Gate 13 & 12 ...	125	0	0
Coal Yard	62	10	0
Waste near the Castle Mount ...	36	5	0
Centry House	22	0	0"

Information is not available regarding the acquisition by Lord Bute from the Corporation of Dobbin Pits and of adjacent lands from their several private owners, but it seems clear that before 1815 the whole of the site of Cathays Park including the Friary Estate had passed into Bute ownership and had probably been enclosed by a stone boundary wall. It was probably about this time that the name Cathays Park was applied to the newly-enclosed area.

Let us now revert to the property specifically known as Cathays which stood on the site of the "reserved acre." Here a farmstead existed in the 17th century if not considerably earlier. One Felix Fox was tenant there in 1682, and he or his descendants continued to reside there until 1738. It was afterwards occupied by Alderman Arthur Williams, who died there in 1762. Both the Foxes and Williamses were Corporation tenants. In 1786 Henry Hollier, Lord Bute's steward, and at this time also Town Clerk, occupied Cathays until 1793, when he removed to Adamsdown. During this period the residence was probably greatly improved with a view possibly to its use as a residence by members of the Bute family.

After Hollier's departure, however, it was occupied by Colonel Thomas Capper, formerly Comptroller General of the Army and Fortifications of the Coromandel Coast, who from 1798 to 1800 shared the tenancy of the premises with his son-in-law Robert Clutterbuck† under

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* Presumably Cathays House.

† Robert Clutterbuck was the son of a Watford (Herts) landowner. His manuscript journals of towns in England, Wales and Scotland are at the Cardiff Library MS. 3,277.

Lord Bute. This Colonel Capper was much interested in agriculture, gardening, meteorology, land reclamation and allied subjects, and published tracts relating thereto. He grew peaches and nectarines in the garden extending southwards from the house, which garden is described in his *Meteorological and Miscellaneous Tracts** (c. 1809). To him is ascribed the credit or otherwise of the scheme for enclosing the Great Heath and Little Heath—commons 1039 acres in extent, lying north of Cardiff. He was a purchaser from the Corporation of part of the enclosed Heath lands (possibly as a nominee of Lord Bute), but although he held the land for some years he did not complete the purchase, and in 1811—in which year he left Cardiff—the Corporation took steps to recover possession of the lands.

Possibly Cathays had been divided into two tenements, for in June, 1800, John Bird‡ mentions the impending departure of Robert Clutterbuck from Cathays and the possible occupation of the property by Lord Bute during his visits to Cardiff. Bird also refers to a project of Lord Bute for diverting the North Road around Cathays and the Friars along a new route, probably coinciding with the present-day Corbett Road and Park Place. The scheme was possibly devised for the purpose of linking up the lands of Cathays and contiguous properties with the lands lying north of the Castle in one large undivided park, instead of the two which were later formed.

After the departure of Colonel Capper the Marquis of Bute is reputed to have pulled down the old Cathays homestead and to have built in its place at a cost of £40,000 a magnificent mansion to which the name Cathays Park was given. This building was in being in 1813, for in Bird's Directory of that year mention is made of "Cathays Park, a seat of the most noble the Marquis of Bute, half a mile north." This house is said to have been expensively fitted and decorated and the adjoining gardens laid out with great taste.

Within a short time of its completion, however, in 1814, the first Marquess of Bute died (aged 70) and his grandson John, second marquess and founder of Cardiff Docks, then a young man of 21, succeeded to the property. He apparently had different views from his grandfather as to the location of his Cardiff residence. He decided to adapt the Castle for this purpose. Much of the fine oak furniture and fittings removed from the Castle to Cathays was now brought back and an extensive scheme of renovation and extension was carried into effect. Some of the Cathays furniture, however, was sold to Mr. Forman, the Merthyr ironmaster, for incorporation in Penydarren House.†

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* Cardiff Library W.4,1074. This book also contains articles with statistical records relating to the Rainfall, Temperature and Atmosphere Pressures 'at Cathay near Cardiff' (1800-1807).

‡ Cardiff Library M.S. 2.716—*The Bird Diaries*.

† See paper by Alexander Basset in Minutes of Proceedings of the South Wales Institute of Engineers. Vol. IV. Session 1884.

Cathays House was in due course, probably in 1815, demolished. No vestige now remains apart from the site and a mound in the north-west corner, described on Ordnance Survey Maps as "Ice-House." Beneath this mound formerly was a dome-shaped underground stone structure which was apparently used as a cold storage room for food and drink. This building was in existence in 1897, when Cathays Park was acquired by the Corporation, but was demolished a year or two later. The site of Cathays was for some undisclosed reason* reserved from the sale, and a condition was inserted in the conveyance requiring that it should be enclosed at the expense of the Corporation. The site still belongs to Lord Bute.

The area included within the ring wall by the first Marquess of Bute to form Cathays Park comprised the land lying between North Road and the present Park Place, and extended from the present day Corbett Road (which seems to have been laid out at the time of the enclosure) southward to and including the Friary estate. Cathays Park was improved from time to time by the successors of the first Marquess. Existing hedges between the fields were removed, a drive was constructed along the west and south sides. Two accesses to the Park were provided, one with a park-keeper's lodge in North Road and one in Park Place (earlier known as Bradley's Lane and Dobbin Pits Lane). The ground was planted with belts and clumps of trees, many of which still exist. The Dobbin Pits homestead seems to have been retained as a kind of home farm. The land on which the University College now stands was laid out as a nursery, whilst the remainder of the land was used for grazing live-stock. The land adjoining the ruins of the Friary and Herbert Mansion, south of the Dock Feeder (which was constructed in 1835), was used as kitchen gardens to supply the needs of the castle.

The separation of Cathays Park from the Castle by the North Road and Canal was a great disadvantage, and in 1889 the third Marquis of Bute proposed to remedy the defect in part by bridging the gap with a raised passage. It was when operations were begun to realise this intention that proof first became available that the Castle occupied the site of an ancient Roman fort. Workmen excavating the bank which formed part of the eastern defences came upon a massive stone wall. Trial trenches made at other points in the bank showed that a similar structure 10 feet thick extended along the east, north and south sides, and experts decided definitely that the wall was of Roman construction. Since that time further excavations have been made over a series of years, and works of protection and restoration embarked upon. How many persons realise that behind the lower portion of the modern East and South Walls of the Castle and incorporated with it exist extensive remains of masonry put together sixteen or more centuries ago?

* The popular belief is that it was promised by Lord Bute as a site for the erection of a Roman Catholic church.

III. CORPORATION ACQUIRE CATHAYS PARK.

The suitability of Lord Bute's magnificent private grounds as a site for a public open space was officially recognised as far back as the 1850's. At this period Cardiff was growing rapidly as the result of the enterprise of the second Marquess of Bute in building his first dock, and in 1858 the Cardiff Board of Health (an authority consisting of members of the Town Council), appointed a sub-committee to approach the Hon. J. Stuart Wortley, the Trustee responsible for controlling the local Bute estate during the minority of its young owner. In an interview which took place in January, 1859, Mr. Wortley declined to entertain a proposal for the sale of any part of the Park to the Corporation for recreation purposes.

Fourteen years later, in 1873, the project was again revived by the Town Council and a further approach was made to the Bute Authorities. In a written reply Lord Bute's solicitor stated that the Park formed part of the Castle lands and could not be sold, and added: "The terms upon which it was left by the late Marchioness of Bute prevented his (*i.e.*, Lord Bute) disposing of it, however otherwise he might consent to it for such a purpose." At this time Cardiff's important Improvement Bill (passed in 1875) was in course of preparation and a clause providing for the compulsory acquisition of the land was prepared, but it was strongly opposed at a meeting of the Town Council and was therefore withdrawn.

The next official mention was in 1887, when a proposal was considered for acquiring the Park as a Memorial of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. No action was taken, however, but two months later it was decided to ask Lord Bute on what terms he would be prepared to permit the public to use the park. Nothing resulted from this decision.

In the early 1890's the question of acquiring the Park came up in another form. Cardiff had now developed into a large town and was still growing rapidly. Its existing administrative, educational and judicial institutions were becoming inadequate to meet its growing needs. Sites were being sought for a new Town Hall and Law Courts, Museum, Intermediate and Technical Schools, as well as for the proposed new University College. The old Town Hall in St. Mary Street was too small to accommodate the fast-increasing Corporation staff, and the judges were severely criticising the lack of adequate provision for the administration of justice. The question of new accommodation was becoming urgent, but there was considerable division of opinion as to the location of the proposed new buildings.

There was also a pressing need for rehousing the Museum in a building apart from the public library, and the provision of a site for this institution was also causing great anxiety. In April, 1892, a few months before his death, Councillor Peter Price (Chairman of the Library and Museum Committee), wrote to Sir William T. Lewis (Lord Bute's chief agent), inquiring whether a site in Park Place, now occupied by the New Theatre, could be sold for the purposes of a Museum. In this letter he further suggested that Lord Bute might be prepared to consider the disposal of Cathays Park as a whole for public purposes only and pointed out that such buildings might well be planned around a central park. Mr. Price thought that if the Corporation could acquire Cathays Park at a reasonable sum—he suggested a figure of £100,000, subject to restriction of user to public purposes—"we could make Cardiff one of the most beautiful towns in the country."

This suggestion seems to have appealed to Sir W. T. Lewis. He replied sympathetically that Lord Bute would be prepared to give favourable consideration to a scheme along the lines indicated by Mr. Price. The matter was brought before the General Purposes Committee of the Town Council in July, 1892, and in September the Town Hall Committee were directed to open negotiations. In the following December the Committee reported that the total area was about 59 acres, and that Lord Bute was willing to sell 38 acres for £120,000.

Now in those days the attitude of the town and of the town council towards the Bute family veered from time to time from gross servility to intense hostility; at this period the Butephobia complex was dominant and considerable opposition was offered to the proposed purchase on a variety of grounds. The site was too large, the price was too high, the restriction on user was unfair; the chief opposition came from the big ratepayers of the St. Mary Street area who feared that the removal of the municipal headquarters from that locality would injuriously affect their interests, although they contended that Queen Street never was and never would develop into an important business area.

"The Battle of the Sites," as the controversy over the location of the new town hall was locally known, now became even more intense than it had been. Mr. Lascelles Carr, the Editor of the *Western Mail*, urged the purchase for the purpose of a part of Cardiff Arms Park (adjoining Canton Bridge); Mr. Sidney Robinson urged the claims of a site in Temperance Town. There were also partisans for other sites, but the St. Mary Street traders mostly favoured rebuilding on the existing and adjoining sites.

Lord Bute's agents were not very helpful in the matter. They declined to sell the land near Canton Bridge, and asked £15,000 for a site of about half an acre in Park St. at the rear of the present Post Office. Mr. Peter Price's suggestion had evidently captivated the imagination

of the Marquess, and he was suspected of putting obstacles in the way of other proposals in order that the conception of a collection of public buildings centralised on Cathays Park might be realised.

It may be that this suspicion was well-founded, but not on the grounds usually alleged that Lord Bute was after "big money." The Marquess had been Mayor of Cardiff in 1891-2 and took a great interest in the town's development. Moreover, he was a cultured gentleman of refined architectural and artistic tastes, which had already been expressed in the renovation and beautification of Cardiff Castle and in the reconstruction of Castell Coch. It seems likely that he had great visions as to the future development of Cardiff, and desired that, side by side with the ancient Castle, there should be established a centre of public administration, education and culture which would bring enhanced glory and prestige to the town. In all probability his views on this matter were shared by certain influential members and officials of the Town Council, who in a measure influenced the moulding of Bute policy on the matter.

In view of the intensified controversy in regard to the location of the new municipal buildings and the criticism directed against the purchase of Cathays Park the matter was dropped for a time. New proposals in regard to alternative sites were made and considered from time to time but no progress was made. Then in 1896 Cathays Park came back again into the picture. At this period the University College Authorities were considering the erection of new buildings and a building fund had just been opened at a town's meeting at Cardiff. An approach had been made to the representatives of Lord Bute for a site for the purpose on Cathays Park, as a site acquired for the purpose by the Corporation in Cathedral Road was deemed unsuitable. It seems likely that the College emissaries were informed of Bute policy, and a hint given to them that the Marquess might be prepared to again consider the sale of Cathays Park as a whole. At any rate two leading members of the College Council privately approached Alderman David Jones, an influential member of the Town Council, with the suggestion that negotiations with the Bute estate should be reopened.

The Alderman consulted with some of his colleagues and was encouraged to make an unofficial approach to Sir W. T. Lewis. Lord Bute was at first unwilling, or affected to be unwilling, to reopen the matter, but at last gave his consent. In January, 1897, the Town Council appointed a small negotiating committee, which in due course reported that Lord Bute would be prepared to sell 58 acres for £158,000,* subject to certain conditions as to lay-out, restricted use of the land for public purposes, the preservation of trees, etc. The plot on which Cathays House formally stood was to be reserved from the sale as well as a considerable part of the Friary lands.

* The final figures were 59 acres and £161,000, the latter including interest and legal and other costs.

The result of the negotiations was generally regarded as favourable. The price was considerably less than was expected, and in March, 1897, the Town Council decided to accept the terms. It was made clear that as the estate was entailed Lord Bute could not sell without Parliamentary authority, and the Corporation had to make provision for obtaining such authority from Parliament. A conditional agreement for purchase was signed on April 14, 1897, and Parliamentary consent to the purchase was obtained on July 15, 1898. On December 14 of the same year the purchase price was paid and Cathays Park passed into the possession of the Corporation.

After the break-down of the early negotiations with Lord Bute, as the need for providing new museum accommodation had become urgent, the Museum Committee had entered into a contract with the Bute Authorities for the purchase of the site now occupied by the New Theatre at a cost of £4,000. In the course of the 1896 negotiations it was agreed that Lord Bute should buy back this site in order that the Museum could be built within the confines of the Park.

Even after the contract for the purchase of Cathays Park had been signed opposition to the erection of the Town Hall and Law Courts thereon was continued by the Ratepayers' Association, backed by the St. Mary Street traders. At a town's meeting held in December, 1897, a demand for a poll on the subject was made by Mr. Lascelles Carr; when, however, he found that the Ratepayers' Association wanted to rebuild on the site of the existing Town Hall and not on a site in Cardiff Arms Park he withdrew his demand and the opposition collapsed.

Much speculation took place during the "Battle of the Sites" as to Lord Bute's motives in declining to sell certain sites and asking excessive prices for others, and the following extract from an editorial article in the *Western Mail* (January 13, 1898) is quoted as an expression of one particular view on the subject:—

> "It is time now to let in some more light on the mysterious desire for removing the municipal buildings so far away from the centre of the town. The Cathays Scheme is the result of a long-standing conspiracy between some of the officials of the Corporation and the representatives of the University College. It has been in the air for years, and when the Corporation applied to Lord Bute for land on which to build a Town Hall on the Cardiff Arms Park the extortionate and ridiculous prices asked for one site and then for another were fixed entirely with the object of driving the Corporation to Cathays Park. It all formed part of a policy. With the Bute interest it has always been the Park or nothing. There is ample evidence to show that Lord Bute has made up his mind to keep the Park as, comparatively speaking, an open space."

Mr. Lascelles Carr then suggested, what today seems a somewhat far-fetched theory, that the Bute policy was based on a desire to preserve the amenities of Nazareth House Convent School, in which institution Lord Bute, as a devout Roman Catholic, was much interested.

> "It is, of course, a legitimate desire, and as long as Lord Bute was dealing with his own property no one had reason to say him nay or had cause for complaint. But when he seeks to drive the town into buying the park at an extortionate price and at the same time reserves its amenity to Nazareth House, he is doing at the public expense what he ought to be doing at his own.
>
> "True, no man can be blamed for driving a hard bargain; no one with justice can blame the Bute authorities for not failing to screw up the terms on every possible occasion, least of all in the Cathays Park deal, which is a particularly astute piece of business. For Lord Bute has got the Corporation in a cleft stick. He will not, except on impossible terms, grant a site for the Town Hall anywhere else than in Cathays Park, and he will not sell a site even there except upon the condition that the ratepayers shall maintain an open space for the benefit of Nazareth House."

Mr. Carr was not unnaturally peeved that his proposal to locate the civic buildings in Cardiff Arms Park near Canton Bridge had been rejected. He overlooked, however, the fact that the Corporation could have sought Parliamentary powers to acquire compulsorily any site desired and at a price fixed by an arbitrator. The probability is that Lord Bute himself was primarily influenced not by financial considerations, but by purely artistic motives, in desiring to reserve Cathays Park as a well-designed civic centre. As trustee for his successor in title he was, however, obliged to demand the full market price of the land. The negotiations on his side were left to that hard-headed business man, Sir W. T. Lewis, who not only executed but also largely formulated Bute policy at that period, and although Lord Bute was held responsible, as in theory he undoubtedly was, for the acts of his agent, it was undoubtedly Sir W. T. Lewis who arranged the bargain with the Corporation.

Whatever may have been the motives behind the Bute policy, however, there can be no doubt that it provided Cardiff with an opportunity of developing on unique lines a civic centre which has redounded to its glory and earned for it an almost world-wide reputation as a progressive and artistic city.

The Corporation took possession of Cathays Park in December, 1898, and in the following March it was formally opened to the public. A tentative lay-out had been prepared for the purpose of the negotiations,

and the main lines of development were probably agreed upon with the Bute authorities before the deal was concluded. At this time sites were definitely allocated on the front for the new Town Hall—Cardiff did not become a city until 1905—Law Courts, and a Municipal Museum, and sites for other likely buildings and for open recreative spaces were also provisionally earmarked.

Such a lay-out was of little use for purposes of development, and it was not until September, 1899, that a complete working plan based on an accurate survey of the land was available for the consideration of the Town Council. On the plan the three main buildings were shown on their present sites, tentative locations for the proposed University and Technical Colleges were indicated, and the Friary Gardens, Circular Green, and Gorsedd Gardens were shown in their present positions. The suggested development of the back land, however, differed from that finally adopted. In addition to the allocation of 4 acres to the University College it was suggested that a 6 acre recreation ground should be reserved for the use of the colleges. The latter provision, however, was not agreed to by the Council.

The lay-out of the roads and therefore the disposition of buildings were largely determined by the conditions laid down by Lord Bute. He had planted in 1878-90 a four-line avenue of elm trees running from north to south which were to be preserved, and this stipulation determined the site of the main road, now King Edward VII Avenue. He also stipulated that the triangular plot of land lying between North Road and the proposed approach to King Edward's Avenue—now Friary Gardens—was to be preserved for ever from building, and that the northern bank of the Feeder should be planted with trees and enclosed.

Since the Town Hall and the Law Courts were to be separate buildings divided by a road it was necessary that there should be a balancing road between the Town Hall and the proposed Museum building. These roads having been decided on the entire remaining development had to be of a formal character, a condition which was also necessitated by the fact that it was not at that period or even today possible to envisage the final number, size and use of future buildings.

The decision to build Museum Avenue of such length as would cover the entire frontage of the site tentatively earmarked for the University College determined the location of the Central Park on three sides and its northern limit was defined when the cross road from Park Place to North Road was fixed. The only important departure from the 1899 plan was at the northern end of the Park. The area in this locality extending from King Edward Avenue to Park Place was originally

favoured as a public or private recreation ground, except that a site was ear-marked facing Aberdare Hall for a Drill Hall. This proposal was not accepted, and subsequently Museum Avenue was extended to Corbett Road, and part of the area now forms the site of the offices of the Welsh Board of Health. It may be of interest to note that the original site proposed for the Technical College was between the Law Courts and the University Registry. A proposal to erect a Boys' Intermediate School near where the Technical College now stands was later withdrawn.

The general lay-out of Cathays Park has met with general approval, but some competent critics have lamented that the buildings erected on the area are of insufficient height. The main criticism has been directed against the unsatisfactory approaches to the Park from the town. These start from points where the Park and its buildings cannot readily be seen and it is pointed out that visitors to the town may leave without knowing that such a magnificent centre exists. Obviously provision should have been made whereunder a panoramic view of the Park could have been secured from Queen Street. As the position now stands the Park is shut out completely from view at the Park Place entrance whilst the Kingsway approach provides only a meagre glimpse. The position was improved somewhat when in 1911 the Corporation bought property for the construction of a third approach known as The Friary, but this advantage was partly lost when a few years ago a commercial building was erected on the north-west corner of Greyfriars Road. It may be that with the impending improvements resulting from the acquisition and development of the canal site this defect may to some extent be rectified but if buildings are erected on the triangular site abutting on the Friary now used as a temporary car park, the position may well be worsened.

When the acquisition of the Park was under consideration in 1892 the construction of a main approach from Queen Street at a point opposite Frederick Street was envisaged, and a great opportunity offered itself in 1899 for giving effect to that proposal. In that year the Empire Music Hall was destroyed by fire, and a plan for a 50 foot road over and beyond the site was prepared. This road would have avoided the ruins of the Friary and would have led in the direction of Museum Avenue. The several owners were approached and were prepared to dispose of their property to facilitate such development. The scheme was estimated to cost between £20,000 and £30,000. Corporation financial commitments at this time, however, were very heavy, amounting to about $1\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds, The Ratepayers' Association opposed the scheme vigorously and after much discussion the Corporation sub-committee decided against the project.

The lack of visibility of Cathays Park from the business centre of the City is generally recognised today as a disadvantage and some leading members of the City Council favour action for improvement. The scheme now being urged by some is for the removal of the Castle Walls facing Kingsway and Duke Street. This proposal is likely to be strongly opposed on two grounds: (1) These walls embody the remains of the Roman walls which have been scheduled as ancient monuments and are under the protection of the Ancient Monuments Commission. (2) The Castle and its walls give character and distinction to the City, and are almost as important an architectural feature as the Civic Buildings themselves. An alternative suggestion has been made that the buildings on the east front of Kingsway should be removed.

The Borough Engineer, the late Mr. William Harpur, to whom chief credit for the development of the Park should be given, submitted detailed plans and estimates for laying out Cathays Park to the Town Council in January 1903. The estimated cost was given as £44,000, a sum which covered the cost of fencing roads and public services, tree-planting and the removal of the walls enclosing the Park, and the partial widening of Park Place and North Road. Park Place was to be widened by throwing the existing western footway into the carriage way, and constructing a new sidewalk under the shadow of the trees which lined the original park within the enclosing wall. In part of North Road, as Lord Bute refused consent to the destruction of trees, the new footpath had to be constructed for a considerable length as a raised terrace terminating at Corbett Road.* In order to ensure spaciousness within the Park a minimum road width of 50 feet was adopted. The main approach from Kingsway to Park Place, however, is 90 feet, whilst the full width of King Edward VII Avenue between buildings was fixed at 200 feet.

Development began in 1903. The main approaches from Kingsway and Park Place to the Civic Buildings were completed in 1904. North Road was widened to provide a carriage way of 26 feet in 1904. King Edward VII Avenue was constructed in 1906 and opened by King Edward in July, 1907. Museum Avenue and the road at the rear of the City Hall were made in 1906, and College Avenue in 1909. The extension of Museum Avenue to Corbett Road was not made until 1931.

* The recent acquisition by the Corporation of the Glamorgan Canal will enable the North Road to be adequately widened and the danger arising from its present narrowness to be removed.

Assembly Room, City Hall

Cardiff Development Committee

THE LAW COURTS

Cardiff Development Committee

IV. CITY HALL AND LAW COURTS.

Little time was lost after the signing of the Cathays Park provisional purchase agreement in March, 1897, in the preparation of a scheme for the erection of a new Town Hall and Law Courts. The separation of the administrative and judicial centres seems to have been decided at an early stage and with little, if any, division of opinion thereon, and it was also agreed that the buildings to be erected for these purposes should occupy the most prominent sites. Very wisely the sub-committee resolved that the designing of the new accommodation should be made the subject of an architectural competition. Prizes of £500, £300 and £200 were offered for the three best designs, and Mr. A. Waterhouse, R.A., was selected as assessor. Fifty-six sets of designs were submitted, and in December, 1897, the first prize was awarded to Messrs. Lancaster, Stewart & Rickards, of London, and this firm was appointed architects for the proposed buildings. It is understood that the author of the premiated designs was Mr. Rickards.

Work on the preparation of detailed plans, specifications and quantities was put in hand immediately, but it was late in 1900 before a building contract could be arranged. In September of that year the tender of a Cardiff firm, Messrs. E. Turner & Sons, totalling £226,288 was accepted, the amount comprising £129,708 for the Town Hall and £96,583 for the Law Courts. Some delay occurred in the early stages of building operations by reason of the fact that, owing to the necessity for raising the level of the approach road crossing the canal and feeder, and also in order to secure increased strong room and other storage accommodation, it was found necessary to increase the height of the City Hall by six feet, a variation which involved an increased total estimated expenditure of nearly six thousand pounds.

The preparatory work on excavations and foundations took the best part of a year, and it was not until October 24, 1901, that the formal ceremony of laying the memorial stones was performed by the Marquess of Bute. Nearly three years later the capstone of the City Hall Tower was fixed in position by the Mayor. The formal opening ceremony of the buildings was performed by the Marquess of Bute in October, 1906.

As the City Hall is the dominating building on Cathays Park from an architectural point of view, and the Law Courts were designed to be in conformity with it, it will be appropriate to give here extracts from a description of the building written by the late Mr. W. S. Purchon,

M.A., Assoc., R.I.B.A., of the Welsh School of Architecture. Of the City Hall Mr. Purchon wrote*:—

"The principal front is a composition of three main masses; the central one being occupied by the main entrance, with its richly treated *porte-cochere,* which is used on all ceremonial occasions. Above the porch is the main window of the Council Chamber, over which apartment is a graceful lead-covered dome surmounted by a representation of the Welsh Dragon by Mr. H. C. Fehr, and cast in lead on an unusually large scale.

"The two large groups of statuary flanking the centre window represent the sea receiving the three rivers of the City—the Taff, Rhymney and Ely. The end portions are treated with bay windows with square attics over, one of the latter giving light to the Lord Mayor's Parlour. The transition from the form of the bay to that of the square attic is skilfully managed by means of groups of statuary which form a series with those on the corresponding pavilions of the Law Courts.

"The group on the Western pavilion of the latter building, by Mr. D. McGill, represents 'Science and Education'; the pavilions on each side of the avenue bear groups by Mr. Paul Montford representing 'Commerce and Industry' and 'Music and Poetry,' while on the Eastern pavilion of the City Hall is a representation of 'Welsh Unity and Patriotism' by Mr. Henry Poole.

"The breadth of treatment given to the East and West façades of the City Hall by the plain masses of the end pavilion is particularly noteworthy. In the centre of the West front, to King Edward VII Avenue, is the usual entrance, and over this is the Clock Tower, perhaps the most striking feature of the City Hall. Rising high above the main structure, it forms a magnificent landmark, and adds beauty to many a prospect in Cardiff and the surrounding district.

"The richly treated upper part of the tower (beautified by figures modelled by Mr. H. C. Fehr) representing the four winds, gains much in contrast with the severely plain substructure. The Tower composes well on the West façade, and on the main front, particularly when seen on entering the Park from Park Place; it also helps to bring the Law Courts into unity with the City Hall."

Regarding the Law Courts building Mr. Purchon says:—

"The architectural treatment of the Law Courts was skilfully devised in perfect harmony with the City Hall, but on somewhat

* Corporation Handbook (1939), p. 34.

severer lines. The South Front continues the treatment of that of the City Hall, but without the central porch. Comment has already been made on the sculptures over the bays of the end pavilions. The Eastern façade (to King Edward VII Avenue) resembles the Western façade of the City Hall in its blank end pavilions, but contains as its central feature the main entrance, with a fine double loggia, surmounted by two beautifully designed cupolas. The Western façade, to the Canal, is also treated with great ability."

Sir Percy Thomas, an equally competent critic, also remarks of the last-mentioned façade that it is "An exceedingly effective composition with its receding wall surface and simple treatment of the fenestration."

The Civic Buildings, however, were not designed primarily as objects of architectural interest; the chief consideration was suitability to the functional purpose which they were intended to serve, and it is also generally agreed that the internal arrangements were also skilfully planned. In the City Hall the Council Chamber, committee rooms, and the special rooms set apart for the use of the Lord Mayor and members of the City Council are located on the first floor and extend over the full front of the building. The administrative offices are arranged off corridors extending around the building on both floors. The central portion of the building on the ground floor is occupied by a very large chamber containing those sections of the finance and licensing departments which have the closest dealings with the general public in connection with the collection of monies due by ratepayers and others, the issue of motor licences and the like. Above this room on the first floor is a magnificent Assembly Hall which, again quoting Mr. Purchon, "is a fine room, well and interestingly treated with an Ionic order set diagonally, the vigorous horizontal lines of the entablature being characteristic of the work of the architects. The richly treated segmented ceiling, pierced by the windows, and the magnificent electric light pendants, make this room a particularly beautiful one."

Perhaps the most outstanding internal feature of the City Hall is the handsome Marble Hall on the first floor, which connects the Assembly Hall and Council Chamber. It is approached from the roomy front vestibule on the ground floor by two massive marble staircases. The Marble Hall has beautiful monolothic columns in Sienna marble, and is further adorned by a unique series of eleven statues representing Welsh historical personages, with other valuable decorative features in the form of paintings, bronze busts and commemorative tablets. The historical statues were the gift to the City of the late Lord Rhondda of Llanwern and are said to have cost more than £15,000.

Mr. Rickards, in designing the Marble Hall, had made provision for its adornment by statues, and during building two niches and eight stone pedestals had been provided in anticipation of such provision being made later. The existence of these niches and pedestals without statues seems to have troubled Town Clerk Wheatley, and he therefore approached the late Lord Rhondda (then Mr. D. A. Thomas) and suggested to him that he should provide a fund for making good the defect. Lord Rhondda responded favourably, and after some consideration it was decided the statues should represent famous figures in Welsh history. The selection of subjects, however, was not an easy task, and a competition on the subject was organised by the *Western Mail*, with Sir Marchant Williams, Professor Thomas Powell and Mr. Llewelyn Williams, M.P., three leading Welsh scholars, acting as judges. As a result of this competition a list of 10 personages was decided on.

The time had now arrived for the selection of sculptors. Professor J. Havard Thomas was appointed Assessor* for this purpose. He viewed the proposed location of the several statues and suggested that the grouping would be incomplete in the absence of a figure in the central position in the Marble Hall. The acceptance of this suggestion involved an increase in the number of statues from ten to eleven. Lord Rhondda agreed to the additional expenditure, and it was decided that the figure of St. David should occupy the post of honour, and that the additional subject should be that of Boadicea. It was further agreed that each of the eleven statues should be the work of a different sculptor, and that Professor Havard Thomas should recommend to the committee the most suitable person for each particular subject.

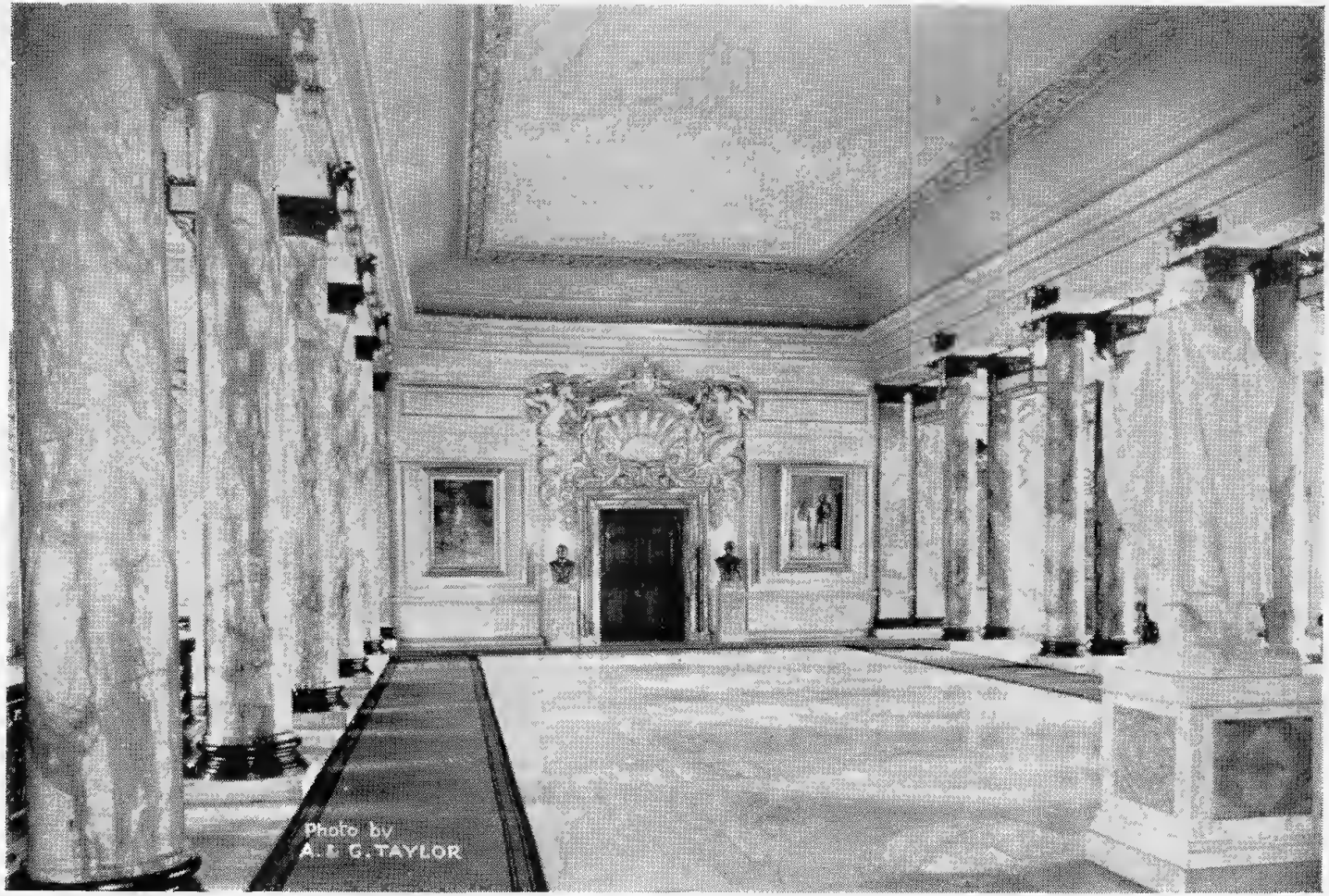
Biographical sketches and other historical detail regarding each of the subjects were prepared and each sculptor was asked from the appropriate data to prepare sketch models for the approval of Lord Rhondda and his advisory committee. By this arrangement it was ensured that the several statues should be correct in regard to period details, and that there should be unity of effect, a quality essential to a collection of statues designed for a particular location.

After the sketches had been approved and details agreed upon relating to the scale of the statuary and type and quality of material to be used the sculptors were commissioned to proceed with the work. It was decided that only the finest statuary marble—Serravezza—should be used. This decision rendered it necessary to replace the stone pedestals

* Acting with him was a Committee comprising Mr. W. Llewelyn Williams, K.C. (Recorder of Cardiff), Mr. J. L. Wheatley (Town Clerk), Lady Mackworth (now Lady Rhondda), Sir Marchant Williams, and Mr. William Davies (Editor, *Western Mail*).

THE LAW COURTS AND SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL

Cardiff Development Committee



MARBLE HALL, CITY HALL

Cardiff Development Committee

provided under the building contract by new marble pedestals designed to be in unison with the statue or group they were to carry and at the same time with the Marble Hall. Ultimately it was decided that the pedestals should be made of Pentelicon marble, executed with Sienna marble panels.

The following is a list of the statues, with the names of the sculptors responsible for them:—

1. Dewi Sant (St. David, Patron Saint of Wales, 6th Century)	Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A.
2. Hywel Dda (Howel the Good, the 'law giver,' 10th Century) ...	F. W. Pomeroy, A.R.A.
3. Buddug (Boadicea, British Queen, 1st Century)	Prof. J. Havard Thomas
4. Llewelyn Ein Llyw Olaf (Llewelyn, the Last Prince of Wales, 13th Century)	Henry Pegram, A.R.A.
5. Harri Tewdwr (Henry VII, Founder of the Tudor dynasty, 15th-16th Centuries)	Ernest G. Gillick
6. Esgob Morgan (Bishop Morgan, 16th Century, Translator of the Bible into Welsh)	T. J. Clapperton
7. Williams, Pantycelyn (18th Century, Revivalist and Hymn Writer) ...	L. S. Merrifield
8. Dafydd ap Gwilym (Eminent Welsh Poet, 14th Century) ...	W. W. Wagstaff
9. Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales, Eminent Scholar and Writer of 12th and 13th Centuries)...	Henry Poole, R.B.S.
10. Owen Glyndwr (Owen Glendower, Welsh Patriot and Warrior, 14th-15th Centuries)	Alfred Turner, R.B.S.
11. Sir Thomas Picton (British General, slain at Waterloo, 18th-19th Centuries)	T. Newburn Crook, R.B.S.

Other works of artistic merit in the Marble Hall and staircase approaches include bronze busts (unveiled 1930) of Lord Glanely, Alderman R. G. Hill-Snook, and Sir W. B. Reardon-Smith, by Sir W. Goscombe John, two bronze tablets with low relief portraits—one commemorating Sir Edward Reed (for many years M.P. for Cardiff)

by Sir George Frampton, R.A., the other commemorating Captain Scott, the Antarctic Explorer, by W. W. Wagstaff, and paintings by Sir Luke Fieldes, R.A., Margaret Lindsay Williams, E. Blair Leighton, and Joseph Farquharson.*

The Welsh Historical Sculpture was unveiled by Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George, M.P., at that time Secretary of State for War, on October 27, 1916. In that month's issue of the *Architectural Review* was printed a critical article on the scheme. The writer stated that the statues and groups were of varying merit, the most praiseworthy being those of Boadicea, Dewi Sant, Williams Pantycelyn, Giraldus and Harri Tewdwr. Highest place was given to Professor Havard Thomas' Boadicea group. This was described as 'a thing of extraordinary beauty, and as a masterpiece of modern sculpture one feels that it is deserving of the most honourable place.' The writer contended that it should occupy the central position occupied by Dewi Sant.

It was also contended that the Marble Hall was not suitably designed for such a large number of statues and that "to place statues on the pedestal blocks of the balustrades where they are between cross lights, and from some points of view are seen silhouetted against the large windows on either side, is, in our opinion, quite a mistake, and we cannot imagine that the effect of the scheme will be other than unsatisfactory."

* There are also marble busts of Alderman Charles Crofts-Williams (1798-1860) and Alderman William Sanders, J.P. (1829-1903).

MARBLE HALL STATUARY (*right stairway*)

Cardiff Development Committee

MARBLE HALL STATUARY (*left stairway*)

Cardiff Development Committee

V. MEMORIALS, SCULPTURES AND OPEN SPACES.

Probably few cities can boast of such a large amount and variety of architectural carving and sculptured work within such a limited area as are contained in Cathays Park. Reference has already been made to the carvings which adorn several of the main buildings and to the wealth of sculpture within the City Hall. There also exist many excellent specimens at the National Museum. In addition there are several life-sized statues in bronze by well-known sculptors in the open spaces of the Park, of which the following is a list:—

Adjoining Law Courts.

Judge Gwilym Williams	Sir W. Goscombe John

Gorsedd Gardens.

John Cory, Coalowner and Philanthropist	Sir W. Goscombe John
Lord Ninian Stuart	Sir W. Goscombe John

Between Gorsedd Gardens and the Green Circle.

Equestrian Statue, The First Lord Tredegar	Sir W. Goscombe John

Friary Gardens.

The Third Marquess of Bute	P. Macgillivray, R.A.

Alexandra Gardens.

Henry Austin Bruce, First Lord Aberdare	H. Hampton

In addition there are two War Memorials. The first of these—the South African War Memorial—standing near the entrance to King Edward VII Avenue, is by Alfred Toft. By far the most important, however, is the Welsh National Memorial of the European War (1914-1918) which stands in Queen Alexandra Gardens. The idea of such a memorial was first mooted in July, 1917, by Councillor H. M. Thompson, but it was not until October, 1919, that the proposal took shape. In that month the *Western Mail* opened a fund for the erection in Cathays Park of a National Memorial to commemorate the men of Wales who lost their lives in the Great War. Altogether a sum of £25,700 was subscribed and this amount was immediately invested in Government securities. A committee was set up for the purpose of carrying the scheme into effect, with W. H. Thornycroft, R.B.S., and H. V. Lanchester, F.R.I.B.A., as Assessors.

After much consideration it was decided that the Memorial should take the form of a fountain to be located in the Green Circle in front of the City Hall. A number of selected architects were invited to submit designs. Four designs were submitted, and in July, 1924, that of Mr. J. E. Comper was accepted. The proposed site was objected to both by the City Council and the Museum Authorities, and Friary Gardens was next selected as an alternative site but, as it was a

condition of sale of Cathays Park that no building should be erected there and Lord Bute declined to waive the condition, it was decided in August, 1925, that the Memorial should be built in a central position in Queen Alexandra Gardens. The contract for the masonry work was let to Messrs. E. Turner & Sons Ltd., whilst Mr. A. B. Pegram, R.B.S., was commissioned to execute the sculpture, Mr. W. D. Gough, of Oxford, to execute the carving and Mr. A. B. Burton, of Thames Ditton, to do the bronze casting. The contractors commenced the work in March, 1926, and completed it in the summer of 1928. The Memorial was unveiled on June 12, 1928, by Edward, Prince of Wales.

The Memorial takes the form of a sunken court containing a central fountain which is surrounded by a seat within a circular colonnade of the Corinthian order. Access to the court is gained by three porches, facing which as part of the fountain are figures of a sailor, a soldier and an airman. Each of these figures is represented as lifting up a wreath towards the central figure of a winged Messenger of Victory, which holds a sword with the cross of its hilt upraised. Beneath this figure is inscribed the words *In Hoc Signo Vinces* (In this sign shalt thou conquer). The fountain plays from the mouths of three bronze dolphins, as the base of the crowning figure, to the lowest basin 22 feet below, and also from three sets of triple bronze lions' heads below the figures of the warriors into three separate basins which form a trefoil, and from which the water overflows in even sheets into the largest basin.

On the frieze of the colonnade inside are carved the words of Sir Henry Newbolt, "Remember here in peace those who in tumult of war by sea, on land, in air, for us and for our victory endureth unto death." The inscription on the outside frieze reads: "I Feibion Cymru a roddes eu Bywyd dros ei Gwlad yn Rhyfel. MCMXIV-MCMXVIII." (To the sons of Wales who gave their lives for their country in the war of 1914-1918.") Over the porches commanding the figures of the sailor, soldier and airman respectively are carved the appropriate Welsh inscriptions composed by well-known Welsh poets, Messrs. T. Gwyn Jones and Williams Parry:—

Dros Fôr fe droes i farw (Over the sea went he to die).
Ger y Ffos yn gorffwyso (Nigh the trench—resting).
Yn y Nwyfre yn hofran (Grappling in the Central Blue).

In addition to the structural memorial the names of the Welsh men and women who fell in the War were recorded by Mr. Graely Hewitt, a noted artist in writing and illumination, in a handsomely bound vellum book which was deposited in the National Museum of Wales and later removed to the Temple of Peace.

FRIARY AND GORSEDD GARDENS.

As has already been indicated the sites of the recreative spaces and ornamental gardens on Cathays Park were probably marked out and

ALEXANDRA GARDENS AND WELSH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Cardiff Development Committee

agreed between the Corporation and Lord Bute prior to the signing of the contract for the purchase of Cathays Park, and their development proceeded simultaneously with the road and drainage works.

Friary Gardens was enclosed in the autumn of 1904 and in the following winter was laid out in its present form as a Dutch garden. The work was completed and handed over to the Parks Committee in September, 1905. It was wrongly named Priory Gardens in 1923, and was correctly renamed Friary Gardens in 1929. Gorsedd Gardens was enclosed and partly laid out in 1904-5. In February, 1905, the Gorsedd Circle (erected elsewhere in the Park for the purposes of the National Eisteddfod of 1899) was removed to the present site. For some years access to the Gardens by the public was barred, but in July, 1910, the Gardens were formally opened and named by the Lord Mayor.

There was some indecision at first as to the extent and boundaries of the central park to the rear of the City Hall, and it was not until 1902 that the present area was finally fixed. Various proposals for its lay-out were prepared by the Borough Engineer, but ultimately it was decided that the existing formal plan of development was the most appropriate. The area was enclosed in 1903 at a cost of £1,750, and the laying-out and planting work was soon carried out by unemployed labour at a cost of £992. This park was at first called University Gardens, but on July 27, 1910, it was formally opened by the Queen and renamed Alexandra Gardens. The Green Circle was fenced with granite posts and chains in the autumn of 1911.

Much discussion took place from 1910 onwards as to the advisability of providing a recreation ground on the vacant site between the Museum and the University College, whilst the Museum authorities also considered the establishment of Botanical Gardens on the site reserved to them for future building. The latter scheme, however, did not mature, and the Corporation also did not proceed with their proposal. It was not until 1929-30 that the vacant land was enclosed, and the site laid down temporarily with six hard tennis courts. In all a little over 11 acres of land are now set apart as parks and ornamental gardens, viz. :—

Areas of the Spaces.	*Acres.*	*Roods.*	*Poles.*
Friary Gardens	0	1	16
Gorsedd Gardens	2	0	3
Queen Alexandra Gardens	5	2	36
Feeder Plantation	0	3	23
Circular Green	0	1	28
Museum Avenue Tennis Courts (temporary)	2	0	7
	11	1	33

VI. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES.

Next to the City Hall the National Museum of Wales is the most prominent and imposing building on Cathays Park. The site was originally intended for a municipal museum, an institution founded on a small scale in 1863, in a small room in St. Mary-street. It was fostered and supported mainly by members of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society, but was under the general control of the Cardiff Corporation Libraries Committee.. Its collections were housed with the Library at the Y.M.C.A Buildings, St. Mary-street, from 1864 until October, 1880, when new Library and Museum buildings were opened in Trinity-street.

At first the Museum was in charge of voluntary curators, and it was not until 1882 that the first paid curator, Mr. John Storrie, was engaged at a salary of £100 a year. On his retirement from the office in 1892 he was succeeded by Mr. John Ward. In the latter year the Museums and Gymnasiums Act was adopted by the Corporation and a separate Museums Committee was appointed to manage the institution. Under Mr. Ward considerable accessions were made to the various collections and an Art Gallery was set up. During the 1890's the idea of a National Museum was being discussed and in 1900, possibly with the object of staking Cardiff's claim to the location of such an institution there, the Museum Committee renamed the Trinity Street assemblage of exhibits as the Welsh Museum of Natural History, Arts and Antiquities. During this period the accommodation became inadequate and the question of the location of the institution in a new building on a different site received much anxious consideration. At last, after many delays arising out of the indecision of the Corporation in regard to the acquisition of Cathays Park, the Museums Committee entered into a contract with the Bute Estate for the purchase of a site in Park Place.

A building scheme on this site, however, was not proceeded with, partly because of the Corporation's ultimate decision to buy CathaysPark but mainly because the scheme for a National Museum in due course matured. It is necessary, therefore, to say a few words in regard to the latter factor. The movement for the establishment of a National Museum and Library was initiated at the National Eisteddfod of 1873, held at Mold, when a committee was set up for the collection and storage at the University College, Aberystwyth, of rare Welsh books and manuscripts. During the next thirty years much scarce and valuable material was assembled, and the question of erecting a separate building for its accommodation came under consideration, and the matter of obtaining a State grant-in-aid was mooted on several occasions. In 1890 Welsh

BISHOP MORGAN (*died* 1604)
TRANSLATOR OF THE BIBLE INTO WELSH

Cardiff Development Committee

DEWI SANT, 6TH CENTURY,
PATRON SAINT OF WALES

Cardiff Development Committee

Members of Parliament drew attention to the fact that whereas England and Scotland received a share of the Museums Grants voted annually for the maintenance of National Museums and Libraries no allocation was made to Wales.

The grievance was made the subject of a Parliamentary debate in September, 1893, on a motion by Mr. (afterwards Sir) J. Herbert Lewis, and from this time onwards the subject was discussed and resolutions passed in support of the Welsh claim by various Welsh cultural bodies, such as the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, the National Eisteddfod Association, etc., and by public administrative authorities such as the Central Welsh Board, County Councils, and by other representative bodies. A National Conference convened by Mr. J. Herbert Lewis at Shrewsbury in 1893 may be said to have made the demand the subject of national agitation. The Government, however, did not respond readily, although on February 21, 1896, a resolution was carried in Parliament in favour of the proposal by 185 votes *for* to 118 *against*. This decision, however, did not settle the issue. Whilst there was agreement throughout Wales on the broad claim there was as usual a considerable conflict of opinion as to the location of the proposed institutions, and the Government took the view that until Wales had decided this question they could not be expected to provide financial credits.

Cardiff, of course, was one of the chief claimants, and its cause was largely supported by the authorities of the contiguous populous areas, whilst Swansea, Aberystwyth, Caernarvon and other towns also had influential support. In February, 1899, Cardiff circulated a memorandum setting forth its offer of its museum collections and its Welsh library as well as of financial aid, provided the institutions were located within its area. This move, however, did not settle the controversy and the state of disunity continued. In 1901 Cardiff took another step forward. It asked the College, the local authorities and other bodies to petition the Government for a grant of maintenance for a Welsh Museum, Library and Art Gallery. *the choice of location to be decided by arbitration.* The matter had meanwhile been brought before the House of Commons on several occasions, and further Parliamentary discussions took place in 1903 and 1904. Following the discussion in the former year Aberystwyth decided to demand a Parliamentary grant for its library and an appeal for funds for a new building was opened. Other towns took steps in support of their claim for one or other of the proposed institutions, and Cardiff persisted in its demand both for a Museum and a Library.

At last, in June 1904, a deputation representative of Wales as a whole, organised by Cardiff, waited on Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to press the claims of Wales in regard to State aid both for a National Museum and a National Library. The

demand of the deputation was conceded, subject to the location of the institutions being left to arbitrators appointed by the Privy Council, and in due course a Treasury minute giving effect to the arrangement was issued. The towns desiring consideration to be given to their claims now got very busy. Cardiff, Swansea and Caernarvon claimed the Museum, whilst Cardiff and Aberystwyth claimed the Library. The arbitrators decided not to take oral evidence, but to make their decision on the basis of a reasoned statement prepared on behalf of each of the towns. Each statement dealt not only with the geographical and other advantages of the particular town, but also gave details of the contributions it could make in the direction both of finance and of existing collections. It soon became obvious that the choice lay between Cardiff and Aberystwyth. The claim of Aberystwyth rested mainly on the valuable existing collections and on the offer by Sir John Williams of his valuable library of rare books and manuscripts.

Cardiff offered a site of four acres on Cathays Park, the collections at its Museum and Art Gallery, the collections of Welsh books and manuscripts housed at the Town Library and the Salesbury Library belonging to the University College. In addition it offered the produce of a penny rate (at that time £1,940) for the maintenance of the Museum, a grant of £1,000 a year for the support of the Library, and a guarantee fund of £40,000 towards the cost of building. The capitalised value of the offer was estimated at £218,000. In June, 1905, the Arbitrators awarded the National Library to Aberystwyth and the National Museum to Cardiff. A National Committee was set up for the purpose of drafting the two Charters of Incorporation, under which the institutions were to be governed, and these documents were executed on March 19, 1907. To enable Cardiff to implement its offer an Act of Parliament was necessary, and this was obtained in 1909.

The governing body of the National Museum met in due course and in 1908 Dr. William Evans Hoyle was appointed the Museum's first Director. The work of organisation was soon in full swing. The Cardiff Museum and Art Gallery passed under the control of the National Museum authorities and arrangements were made for its continuance in Trinity Street until such time as a new building could be erected.

The designing of the National Museum was made the subject of public competition, prizes of £200, £150 and £100 being offered for the best designs. In February, 1910, the design of Messrs. Smith and Brewer, of London was awarded first prize by the assessors and that firm was appointed architects. The preparation of plans and other details for the section to be proceeded with as a first instalment of the scheme was at once put in hand and in due course the tender of Messrs. E. Turner & Sons, amounting to £30,000, for the construction of foundations, basement and sub-basement, was accepted. The contractors

National Museum of Wales

Cardiff Development Committee

National Museum of Wales, Entrance Hall

Cardiff Development Committee

commenced operations in September, 1911, and the foundation stone-laying ceremony was performed by King George V on June 25, 1912. A further contract for the erection of the superstructure was entered into with Messrs. Turner & Sons in 1914. By reason of the European War, however, building operations were suspended in 1915, and not resumed until 1920. By 1926 a sufficient portion of the building, including the Central Hall and South East Gallery, was completed to enable the Museum to be formally opened by King George V on April 21, 1927.

With the aid of donations from local authorities and individuals, of whom Sir William and Lady Reardon-Smith and Lord Glanely deserve special mention, and of State grants-in-aid, the Museum authorities were soon in a position to proceed with the building of the eastern range of galleries and the Reardon-Smith Lecture Theatre. In November, 1929, a contract was entered into with Messrs. W. T. Nicholl Ltd. (Gloucester) for carrying out the work at a cost of £81,987. A further contract was also entered into with Messrs. Henry Wilcox & Co., Ltd. The extensions were formally opened by Prince George, Duke of Kent in 1932. Although less than half the full scheme has been completed, the capital expenditure on the building to date has amounted to £405,000, of which nearly half has come from State funds.

The National Museum is generally admitted by experts to be one of the finest designed buildings erected in our time for its particular purpose. Its stately south façade harmonises well with the City Hall and with its attractive surroundings. Its well-lighted and spacious galleries, convenient workrooms and extensive storage for reserve collections, apart from its external architecture, have won the highest commendation not only from architects but also from experts in museum management. The following description of the building is by Sir Cyril Fox (the present Director). He states of the designers that in

> "expressing the essential elements of internal arrangements in external form, they have created a building dignified and nobly proportioned, strikingly individual, yet based upon a fine classic tradition. The severe grandeur of its outline, the just balance of its masses, and the originality of their grouping cannot fail to impress the visitor. Especially noteworthy are the coupled columns of the porch, and the architrave thereover, presenting a modern interpretation of the Doric order perfected by the Greeks in the fifth century before Christ; the granite entrance doorway, which also follows a classical tradition; and the massive bronze doors. Attention is particularly directed to the sculptural groups illustrative of Wales and her industrial activities which are placed above the cornice which extends round the building."*

* *Cardiff, The City and Port* (1939), p. 67.

As these carvings are such a distinctive feature of the building it may be well to name them and their executants, viz. :—

South Front: Stone Age (Richard Garbe), Bronze Age and Iron Age (Gilbert Bayes), Coal Age (Richard Garbe).

West Front: Mining and Shipping (T. S. Clapperton).

East Front: Learning (T. S. Clapperton), Art (Bertram Pegram), Music (David Evans).

The West Front sculptures are regarded by most critics as the best. The boldly wrought dragon and lions which buttress the lofty and impressive lead-covered dome are by Bertram Pegram.

The outstanding feature of the interior of the building is the fine domed interior hall and its galleries and massive marble staircases. To quote Sir Cyril Fox again:—

> "The central octagon roofed by the dome (90 feet above the floor) together with lateral bays extending the full width of the south front, is one of the finest interiors of its class in these islands; the vista from stairway to stairway gives a remarkable sense of space and dignity."

The Reardon-Smith Hall and the oak-lined Court Room and Library also are notable features of the internal arrangements.

It is not within the scope of this account to describe the contents of the Museum or to comment on the novel method of displaying exhibits. The primary purpose of the institution is expressed in its apt Welsh motto: "I ddysgu'r byd am Gymru, a dysgu'r Cymry am wlad eu tadau." (To teach the world about Wales and the Welsh people about their own fatherland). The Museum seeks to collect, preserve, and exhibit in intelligible and attractive form all kinds of material relating to the geology, botany, zoology, archaeology, folk culture and industry and art of Wales. When the full scheme of building has been completed and the various galleries stocked with the vast wealth of material available or to be acquired the National Museum should prove to be one of the foremost institutions of its class in the world.

VII. THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

In the seventies of last century Welsh people began to take great interest in the matter of the provision of better educational facilities. The passing of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, under which school boards could be formed in parishes where there were no schools or where the voluntary schools did not meet the need, led to considerable development in the elementary field, whilst the founding of the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth in 1872 provided improved facilities for higher education. Considerable public agitation ensued for wider educational facilities, particularly in regard to the post-primary stage, and as the result of pressure by Welsh Members of Parliament the Liberal Government of 1881 set up a Departmental Committee to inquire into and report upon the state of Intermediate and Higher Education in Wales. This committee in due course presented its report which, *inter alia*, recommended the establishment of a College in North Wales and another in South Wales, to each of which an annual State grant of £4,000 should be allocated for its maintenance.

The Government decided to implement the recommendation subject to an equivalent sum being raised locally, and the matter of the location of the South Wales College was made the subject of arbitration. Both Cardiff and Swansea competed, and each took steps to establish a guarantee fund. A substantial sum was promised by the supporters of each of the two towns, but Cardiff easily gained the financial lead as the result of an additional sum of £10,000 offered by Lord Bute and the offer by the Corporation of a free site for a college building or the annual interest at 4 per cent. on £10,000. Cardiff's position was further strengthened by the offer of the Governors of the Craddock Wells Charity to contribute an annual sum of £500 for the educational purposes of the College if located in Cardiff. In face of the superior financial offer from Cardiff the Arbitrators had no difficulty (on March 4, 1883) in deciding in favour of that town.

Steps were immediately taken to establish the College. In June 1883, a brilliant young Welsh scientist, J. Viriamu Jones, was appointed Principal, and at once began to organise the institution. The first step was to secure temporary premises. Several proposals were considered, and the selection caused some disagreement between the College authorities and the Corporation. Ultimately it was decided that the most suitable building was the Cardiff Infirmary in Newport Road then about to be vacated for a new and more commodious building a

short distance away. The premises, which were estimated to accommodate between 300 and 400 students, were offered to the College authorities at a rental of £400 a year. Application was made to the Corporation to allocate the sum of £400 a year promised under the guarantee arrangement for the payment of this rental. At first the application was refused, but better counsels later prevailed.

The College was formally opened on October 23, 1883, and 102 students were enrolled. Meanwhile work was proceeding on the drafting of the Charter of Incorporation, a document which was signed by Queen Victoria on October 7, 1884.

The College grew rapidly. In 1884 151 students were enrolled, and each new session a big increase was recorded. By 1894 the number of students had reached 350. Soon the Government grant proved inadequate to meet outgoings. The College staffing arrangements were insufficient, the standard of equipment was generally low, and new departments were called for. In addition the question of erecting permanent buildings had to be faced. Further temporary accommodation for students was provided by the erection of "shacks" within the curtilage of the College, whilst rooms for the use of members of the staff were rented in neighbouring houses.

New departments established during the first 25 years were Hebrew (1885), Training of Teachers (1890), Civil Engineering (1890), Mining and Geology (1891), History (1892), Botany (1892), Medical School (1893), Metallurgy (1894), and Applied Science and Technology (1896).

It soon became evident that new permanent premises would have to be provided. As early as 1889 a committee was set up for the purpose of raising a building fund. In 1894 a deputation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer in support of an application for a grant of £10,000 towards the erection of a new College, the cost of which was estimated at between £250,000 and £300,000. This request was refused, but a Treasury grant of £2,000 was promised, subject to an equivalent sum being raised locally. The Worshipful Company of Drapers promised a further sum of £10,000 on a like condition.

Another difficulty now cropped up. After a period of years it was found that the annual payment of £400 by the Corporation had been made irregularly and further payment was stopped. To solve this problem it became necessary in 1895 to purchase the College from the Infirmary authorities for £10,000 and this amount was paid out of a capital grant of like amount from the Corporation. Later in 1898 the Corporation made a further grant of £1,623 to cover the amount of the arrears of the annual grant.

A public appeal for funds for building a new College was initiated at a town's meeting convened by Lord Windsor on February, 1896. Promises of £13,400 were received at this gathering, and the appeal was extended throughout South Wales. By 1898 an amount of £51,000 had been collected, including a grant of £30,000 from the Drapers' Company. A site had now to be acquired. The Corporation's original offer no longer applied, as the alternative cash offer of £10,000 had been accepted by the College. Sites in Cathedral Road and on Cathays Park had been under consideration. The former locality was deemed unsuitable, whilst a site offered by Lord Bute in Cathays Park did not provide for adequate expansion.

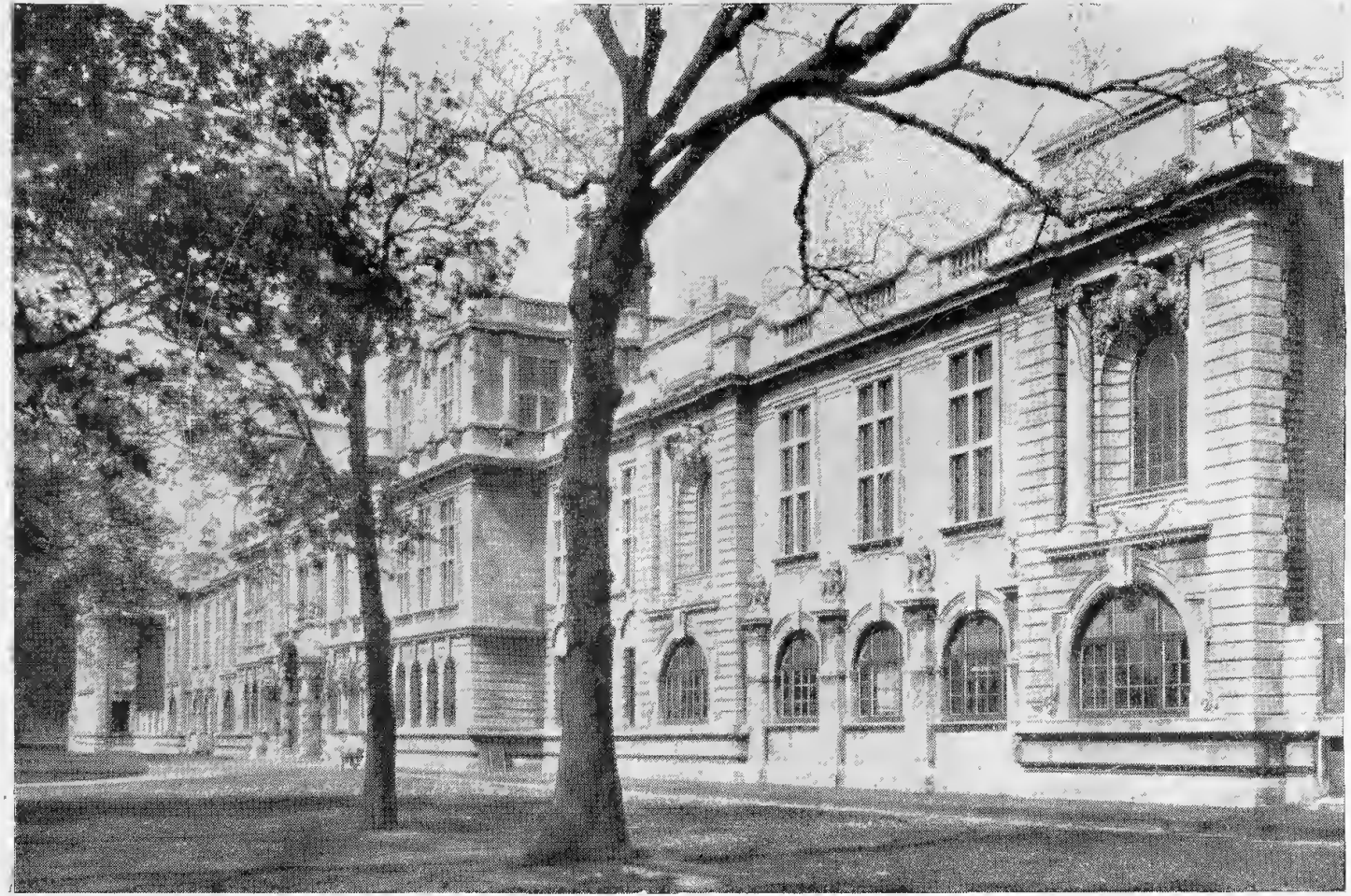
The matter of site acquisition lay in abeyance until Cathays Park had been bought by the Corporation. An appeal was now made by the College authorities to the Corporation to allocate an area of 10 acres for the erection of a new College and the provision of a recreation field for students. The Corporation declined to provide a playing field but in 1900 they decided to grant an area of 5 acres (the site value of which was estimated at £18,750) between Park Place and the proposed Museum Avenue for building the College on lease for 999 years at a peppercorn rent. A condition was attached to this handsome gift that certain accommodation and equipment in the new building were to be available for the laboratory work of the Corporation's Health Department. Later in 1920 a further area of 3 acres, lying north-west of the College was granted for future building requirements on similar terms.

In 1903 the College authorities decided to proceed with the erection of the new College. The designing of the building was made the subject of public competition, and the first prize of 300 guineas was awarded to Mr. W. Douglas Caroe, F.S.A., of London, for a building estimated by that architect to cost £224,355. Mr. Caroe was appointed architect, and in due course tenders were received for erecting a portion of the building. That of Messrs. E. Turner & Sons was accepted, and the work of erection proceeded with by that firm. On October 14, 1909, the building was formally opened by the College President, the Earl of Plymouth. The first section included the Administrative and Arts Blocks, the Drapers' Library and the Viriamu Jones Memorial Physical Research Laboratory. To the cost of this work; for which £66,000 had been received from individuals and institutions, the Treasury contributed a grant-in-aid of £20,000, and the Worshipful Company of Drapers subscribed £16,000, the latter towards the cost of the Library. The total cost of the first section of the building scheme was approximately £127,000.

A further appeal for funds was made in 1920-21 for the erection of extended buildings estimated to cost £220,000. The new scheme included the provision of the Tatem Laboratories for Chemistry and

Physics and of special accommodation for the Agricultural Advisory and Research Department. Nearly £140,000 of the total amount was subscribed by seven persons, the largest contribution being that of £85,000 by Lord Glanely (formerly Sir W. J. Tatem, Bart.). The foundation stone was laid by Lord Glanely on June 24, 1925, and the completed extension was formally opened by the Prince of Wales on May 21, 1930. It was announced at the latter ceremony that the total cost had been covered by actual or promised subscriptions. In addition to building activities at Cathays Park extensive building developments had also been carried out at Newport Road, whilst in 1933 separate buildings used as a Refectory and as Students' Union headquarters were built in Park Place to the design of Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd.

Approximately half of the proposed buildings have been completed. The south wing, which is intended to accommodate the Science departments, still awaits construction, as does the Great Hall, which will face Park Place. Despite the large size and imposing appearance of the building Caroe's elevations have received very little commendation from competent critics, and writers of essays on Cardiff architecture significantly ignore this building or dismiss it with a few lines. The design represents a version of the earlier English Renaissance, but, to quote Mr. Percy Thomas, "the elevations, which are restless and over elaborate in detail, compare unfavourably with the simple classic dignity of the other buildings on the Park." The outstanding feature of the building internally is the Drapers' Library, which takes the form of a great galleried hall.



University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire

Cardiff Development Committee

University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, The Library

Cardiff Development Committee

VIII. UNIVERSITY OF WALES REGISTRY.

The first building erected in Cathays Park was the University Registry, the administrative headquarters of the University of Wales. The movement for the establishment of a University by the federation of the three colleges of Aberystwyth, Cardiff and Bangor was set afoot in July, 1888, at a meeting of collegiate representatives. Considerable division of opinion arose at later conferences, particularly on the question as to whether the degrees of the University should be open to all comers or confined to resident students of the constituent colleges. Ultimately a decision was made in favour of the second alternative, a draft charter "constituting and founding a University for Wales" was agreed, and this was approved by the Privy Council and signed by Queen Victoria on November 23, 1893. By this charter the academic policy of the three colleges (four, after the establishment of the University College of Swansea in 1920) was largely decided by the University Authorities.

The next move was to secure State assistance for the University. A maintenance grant of £8,000 a year was applied for, but only £3,000 was granted in the first year; the grant was then raised to £4,000 at which figure it remained until 1910. The University Court was in due course constituted, and its first meeting was held in April, 1894. In June, 1896, a meeting of the University took place at Aberystwyth, when the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII) was installed as Chancellor. The question of permanent administrative headquarters for the new institution had yet to be fixed, and in 1896 the matter became a subject of much discussion. There was considerable competition by different towns for the privilege of securing the location, and the competitors put forward their several claims and offered financial or other inducements. The Cardiff Corporation were very anxious to secure the honour as it was thought that the settlement of the University in the town would enhance its prestige and possibly lead to more tangible results. Cardiff therefore appointed a committee to press its claims, and offered the University Authorities a free site in Cathays Park of half an acre on lease for 999 years at a peppercorn rent, as well as a contribution of £6,000 towards the cost of building. This offer was accepted in 1897, and the Cardiff Corporation Act of 1898 gave the Corporation authority to ratify its gift.

The University Court in due course appointed Messrs. Wills and Anderson as architects for the new office. The building, which is in King Edward VII Avenue, was designed in the maturer Renaissance

manner, and although, to quote Sir Percy Thomas, it "suffers somewhat by contrast with its larger and more dignified neighbours," it is nevertheless quite a pleasing structure. The main façade covers a basement and a main storey treated with the Ionic order in the central part and an upper floor with circular window. In 1921 and again in 1931 the building was extended to provide new accommodation for increasing University activities, in accordance with plans prepared by Messrs. Wills and Anderson and Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd respectively.

IX. GLAMORGAN COUNTY HALL.

The Glamorgan County Council was created under the powers of the Local Government Act, 1888. At first its functions were very limited, and for their administration a large staff and elaborate office accommodation were not necessary. Nor was the administration centralised. The County Clerk's department was accommodated at the old County Offices in Westgate Street, Cardiff (built in 1882 to the plans of Horace C. Lester, of London), the County Surveyor's department was located at Bridgend, whilst the County Medical Officer administered from offices in the Parade, Cardiff. When in 1902 the County Council became the education authority new departments were established for school administration at St. Mary Street, Cardiff, and for the maintenance of school buildings at Cardiff and Neath. As there was no room large enough at the Westgate Street offices to serve as a Council Chamber the County Council and its committees used to meet alternately at Neath and Pontypridd.

With the addition of new functions and the extension of existing departments it became necessary both on administrative and economic grounds to provide adequate centralised offices and considerable discussion took place on the subject during the earlier years of the present century. There was a division of opinion as to whether the centre of administration should be Cardiff or Bridgend, but ultimately Cardiff was preferred. The decision was doubtless influenced to some extent by the offer of the Corporation sub-committee to allocate a suitable site on Cathays Park.

A freehold site of about one acre was purchased from the Corporation for the sum of £3,000. A public competition for designs was held. That submitted by Messrs. Vincent Harris and T. A. Moodie, of Lincoln's Inn, was accepted, and that firm duly commissioned to plan and supervise the construction of the new building. In due course the tender of Messrs. E. Turner & Sons in the sum of £67,724 was accepted. The building was completed and formally opened in 1912 by Councillor John Blandy Jenkins, chairman of the County Council.

The architecture of this building has received warm commendation from competent authorities. The following description is from the pen of the late Mr. W. S. Purchon*:—

> "The main façade, treated with a fine portico of coupled Corinthian pillars, flanked by pavilions designed with an ability which is particularly conspicuous in their lower portions, is worthy of comparison

* *Cardiff, The City and Port*, 1939.

with any similarly classical composition; while the back elevation with its balcony supported on well-designed stone brackets, its curved wing walls and delightful centre feature, is remarkable for its grace and charm. This elevation alone would put its designers, Messrs. Harris and Moodie, in the front rank of modern English architects; they risked much in departing from the obvious, but in doing so they have achieved sheer beauty.

"At the extremity of the stylobate on the main façade are two noteworthy groups symbolical of Navigation and Mining. These and the charming figures on the wing walls at the back are by Mr. Albert Hodge, as also the figure of a Druid and a Bard which are placed on pedestals in the interesting screen behind the dais in the Council Chamber. The carving which enriches the central feature of the front to the North Road is the work of Mr. Arthur Broadbent."

Another competent critic, Sir Percy Thomas, is equally appreciative. He says:—

"The main façade . . . is a remarkably fine piece of work, and the other elevations, although perhaps departing from the character of the main front, are essentially effective compositions. Indeed, the elevation to North Road, with its bold balcony supported by massive corbels, is considered by many to be one of Mr. Harris's finest designs."*

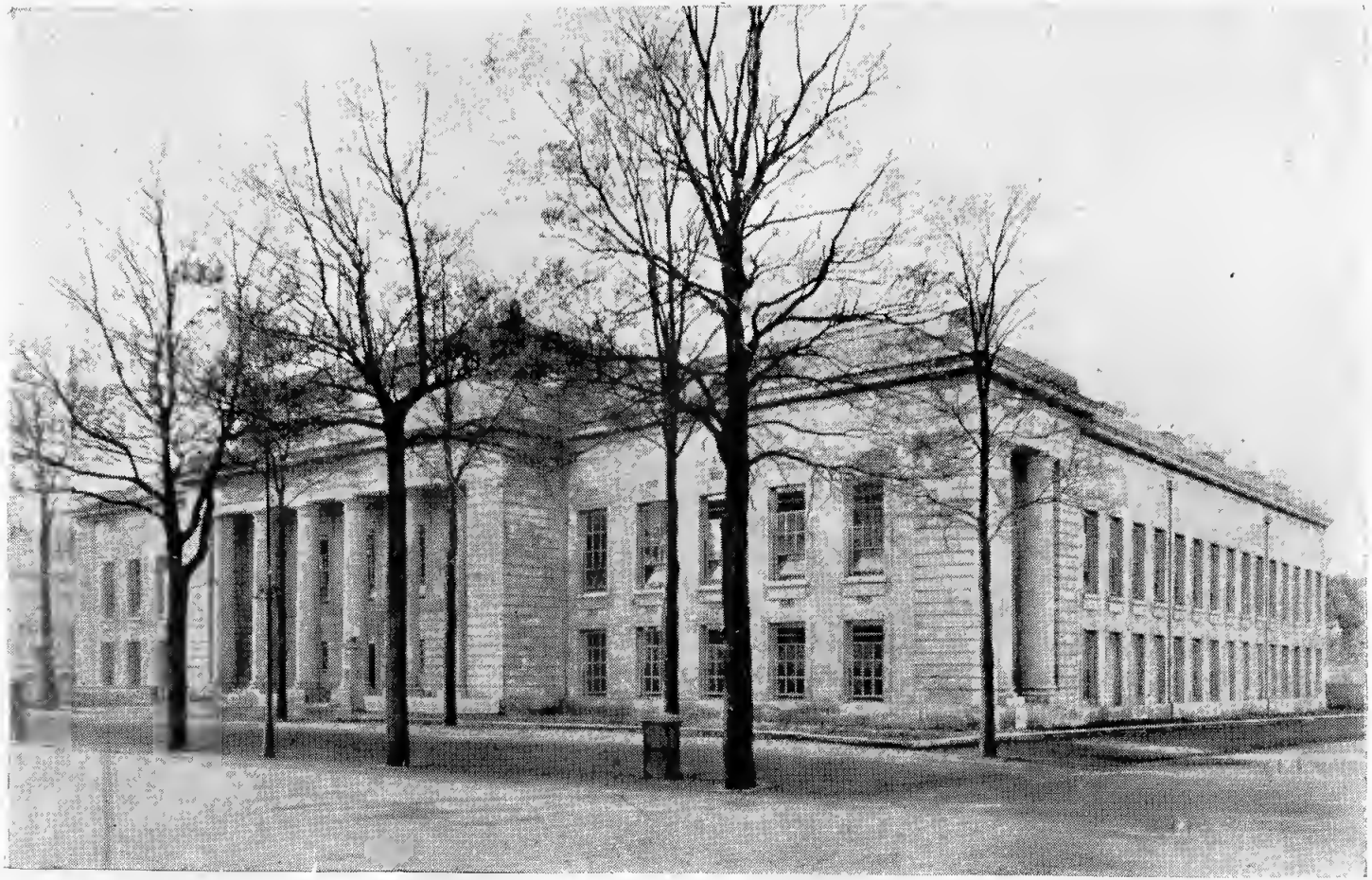
When the County Hall was opened the total administrative and technical staff was only 74, and it was thought that liberal provision had been made for likely expansion. Parliament, however, continued to extend the functions of County Councils, and the staff had to be increased to meet the new responsibilities. By 1932 the number had increased to 275, and the additional accommodation had to be met by renting offices in the City. The question of a new building had previously come under consideration, and in 1927 the County Council had acquired from the Corporation for the sum of £6,250 an adjoining site facing North Road at the rear of the University Registry.

The Local Government Act, 1929, transferred to the County Council the functions of the Board of Guardians within the county and gave them wider jurisdiction over roads and bridges and also in regard to registration. This departure made the provision of new accommodation a matter of great urgency, but as Glamorgan was then suffering badly from industrial depression the County Council could not, without outside aid, undertake a large building programme. In the summer of 1929, therefore, it was decided to apply to the Unemployments Grants Committee for a State grant towards the cost of erecting additional accommodation on the

* N.A.H.T. Book of Cardiff, p. 75.

GLAMORGAN COUNTY HALL

Cardiff Development Committee



CARDIFF TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Cardiff Development Committee

new site. The application was sympathetically considered and a grant of approximately two-thirds of the cost was made subject to certain conditions and limitations of time.

There was no time to invite competitive designs, and Messrs. Ivor Jones and Percy Thomas were accordingly commissioned as architects for the new buildings. In a short time a contract was entered into for £2,085 with Messrs. A. Holcombe & Sons for the foundation work. Later the tender of Messrs. E. Turner & Sons Ltd. for the erection of the superstructure at a cost of £54,058 was accepted. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Colonel D. Watts Morgan on May 19, 1931, and the formal opening ceremony was performed on September 22, 1932, by Alderman D. T. Williams, chairman of the Council. By the latter date the central administrative staff of the County Council had increased to 275, and for the time being the accommodation was ample. By 1939, however, a further substantial increase was recorded, with the result that a section of the staff had to be quartered elsewhere in the City or in the County. It is certain therefore that further expansion will need to be undertaken shortly.

Sir Percy Thomas' plan was for a building of four storeys arranged in the form of a square around a central courtyard. Actually three sides only have been completed; the eastern wing behind and overlooking the University Registry was deferred at the request of the Ministry of Health. It is to be hoped that when this wing is proceeded with care will be taken to design the façade in such a way that it will harmonise with the University Registry and both appear to form part of one whole. At present the Registry is somewhat dwarfed and its merits dimmed by comparison with the adjoining structures. The County Hall extension is a well-proportioned and pleasing building of the Italian Renaissance style and was designed to blend with the back elevation of the original structure. Character is given to the façades by the heavily rusticated base and quoins and a bold projecting cornice with enriched modillions and curved bed mould. Whilst the main entrance to the Extension is from North Road the new building is also linked up to the main Hall by an enclosed bridge.

X. THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

In 1861 Cardiff Library was founded as a voluntary service; in 1862 the Corporation took it over and it became a rate-aided institution. In 1865 educational functions were entrusted to the Library Committee, and a management Sub-Committee was set up, under whose auspices for twenty-five years, Science and Art classes were conducted at the Library. The Technical College of to-day had its early beginnings in the Science and Art classes which were conducted by Mr. and Mrs. James Bush in 1865 in the little Museum Room in the Old Free Library in St. Mary Street under conditions by no means encouraging. In those early days the students had to do their work—delicate and difficult work—on desks improvised by placing planks across from cask to cask and a few chairs completed the furniture in the room. In 1889 the Technical Instruction Act was passed which authorised (a) the levying of a rate up to a penny in the pound and (b) the setting up of a Technical Education Committee.

The Technical Instruction Committee of the County Borough of Cardiff was appointed in 1889 and took over the educational functions of the Library Committee. In 1890 the Local Taxation Act was passed and it provided for the allocation of part of the National income from Excise and certain additional duties imposed on Beer and Spirits as grants to Local Education Authorities for the provision of Higher Education.

Science and Art classes continued for a short time to be held at the Library. The accommodation of this building, however, had become inadequate by reason of the development of the various activities located there, and the Technical Instruction Committee were obliged to seek other premises. As no suitable building could be found it was decided in December, 1889, to ask the University College authorities to state the terms on which they would provide accommodation and instruction for technical and science and art classes. Terms were in due course arranged, on the basis of fixed annual payments, for the teaching of science and technology, commerce, housewifery, music and art to be given at the College at evening sessions. The College already organised such classes under its own auspices; by this arrangement 2,000 enrolments were added to the existing number. The number of new students increased year by year, and in 1894 the College authorities took over the old Cardiff Proprietary School in Dumfries Place.

The agreement between the Technical Instruction Committee and the College authorities continued in operation for 18 years, when as the result mainly of a report made by Sir Philip Magnus in 1907 a Superintendent of Technical Instruction was appointed by the Education Committee set up to administer this form of instruction and to provide suitable accommodation therefor. Pending the erection of a new technical instruction centre, however, the arrangement with the College authorities remained in force for another eight years.

In 1907, when the Institution (in Dumfries Place) was called the Technical School, there were approximately 1,000 individual students in attendance but, except in the School of Art, not one was a full-time student.

Very rapid growth was recorded. Nine separate buildings in all had to be requisitioned in order to attempt to cope with the work, and, by 1913-14, the total number of students had reached 2,689 and the total number of student-hours had become 300,220. In 1911 the Technical Instruction Committee decided that special accommodation was absolutely necessary and it was decided to proceed with the arrangements for additional accommodation.

An open competition for architectural designs was arranged, and the winners of the first prize—Messrs. Ivor Jones and Percy Thomas of Cardiff—were appointed architects for the scheme. In due course a contract for the erection of the College was entered into with Messrs. E. Turner & Sons Ltd.

In April, 1914, the Foundation Stone of the original section of the present building was laid by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Dr. Robinson, J.P.). This took the form of three sides of a square, the fourth being left for future extensions—a very wise procedure. In March, 1916, the Technical College was opened by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Dr. R. J. Smith, J.P.). Additional engineering workshops and laboratories were erected in 1919. This formed the first floor of the fourth wing, facing North Road.

The Technical College is planned in the form of a hollow rectangle, of which three sides only were completed in 1916. The North Road wing was not built until a decade later and was opened in 1927. Other additions were later made by building two floors above the main hall, which occupies a considerable portion of the interior of the rectangle. The building has been designed in a severe classical style, and relies for effect on beauty of architectural form and proportion rather than on ornament and sculpture. The main façade to King Edward VII Avenue is Neo-Grec in character with a central dignified and well-designed portico of the Doric order.

The end of the War (1918) made it possible to develop the College upon the highest possible lines and it became a post-secondary Institution with many of its departments of University rank. The very large growth in the volume of work, particularly in the advanced grades, at the Technical College, brought about the scheme for the second extensions which were opened in 1927 by the Lord Mayor (Alderman A. J. Howell, J.P.).

The Technical College is one of the leading Technical Colleges in the country and is fast approaching the Regent Street Polytechnic. For the Session immediately preceding the out-break of the 1938-45 World War, there were 812 full-time students and 8,523 part-time students. The total fees amounted to £11,145 and the total student hours (which always indicate the volume of work done) totalled 1,090,433.

It is a regional College serving not only Cardiff but Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Breconshire, Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Newport, Merthyr, Rhondda, and Swansea.

The following departments are now housed in the Technical College:

Science and Technology (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Building Trades (and Junior School for Builders) and Bakery and Confectionery).
Pharmacy.
Navigation (and Smith Junior Nautical School).
Welsh School of Architecture.
The Higher School of Commerce.
The School of Art.
Domestic Arts.

Jointly with the University College, Degrees of the University and Diplomas in certain courses can be obtained. Students successes at University of London Examinations, 1944, were as follows:—

B.Sc. (Engineering): 1st Class Hons., 5; 2nd Class Hons., 4; Pass, 8; Part I of Final, 6; Intermediate, 8.
B.Sc. (Chemistry): 2nd Class Hons., 4; Pass, 4.
B.Sc. (General): 2nd Class Hons., 1;
B.Com. Upper Division Group A; 2nd Class Hons., 1.
B.Com. Lower Division Group A; 2nd Class Hons., 1.
Pass, 1.
First Medical: Pass, 1.

XI. TEMPLE OF PEACE AND HEALTH.

In 1910 as a memorial to King Edward VII the first Lord Davies of Llandinam (then Mr. David Davies, M.P.) initiated the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association as a voluntary organisation for the prevention, treatment and eradication of tuberculosis, a disease which at that period took heavy toll from the people of Wales. Lord Davies and his sisters—the Misses Davies—contributed a huge sum to a national fund which was opened in support of the movement. The Association was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1912 and later became the instrument by which the Welsh Insurance Committees and, subsequently, the Welsh County and County Borough Councils exercise their statutory powers and duties to make arrangements for the treatment of tuberculosis throughout the Principality. The Local Government Act, 1929, and Schemes periodically made under Section 102(3) by the Minister of Health enact for the payment by the Councils to the Association of amounts towards the expenses of the Welsh Tuberculosis Service.

Lord Davies had also long been interested in problems of international relations, and particularly in that of the establishment and maintenance of peace between nations. He was the founder, chief supporter, and president of the Welsh National Council of the League of Nations Union.

To serve the twin causes of Peace and Health Lord Davies in 1934 covenanted to donate £58,000 towards the cost of erecting a building, on a site in King Edward VII Avenue presented by the Cardiff Corporation, which would serve as administrative offices for the Memorial Association and the Welsh Council of the League of Nations Union and also contain a Temple of Peace and Health as a meeting place for these and allied causes. The designing of the building was entrusted to Mr. (now Sir) Percy Thomas, O.B.E., P.R.I.B.A., and the constructional work was carried out by E. Turner & Sons Ltd. at a cost of £63,217. The foundation stone-laying ceremony was performed by Viscount Halifax on April 8, 1937, and the opening ceremony was performed on November 23, 1938, by a woman representative of the War-bereaved mothers of Wales. Amongst other speakers at the latter ceremony were the First Lord Davies, who presided, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Lord Kennet, Lord Meston, Lord Snell, Professor Gilbert Murray and Senator the Hon. James J. Davis (U.S.A.).

The Hall of Nations, as the building is sometimes called, is T-shaped, the leg of the T containing the Temple of Peace and Health, whilst the two wings house the offices of the two Institutions in Wales which are engaged in fighting the crusades for Peace and Health. The Temple is, of course, the outstanding feature of the building. The main doorway from the Avenue opens into an entrance hall the walls and floors of which are lined with marble, with a short flight of steps leading to the main ground floor and the beautiful Temple. According to an official description.

> "This magnificent edifice has walls faced with Trani Mirabelle marble. Eight square majestic columns in fluted black and gold marble form the side aisles, between which large modern light fittings, constructed chiefly in glass, are suspended by heavy green cords. The beautiful coffered ceiling is richly coloured in dove-grey, emerald green and gold, and large windows extending to the floor are provided with specially designed hand-woven heavy curtains of grey and green to harmonise with the general colour scheme."

Below the Temple is the Crypt which houses the Welsh National Book of Remembrance, in which are written the names of 35,000 of those from Wales who lost their lives in the European War (1914-1918). Each day at 11 o'clock one page of this book is turned as a perpetual memorial. This unique volume, which contains 1,100 pages of parchment vellum, rests in a bronze case on a pedestal of black marble. The crypt is domed and constructed in Bath stone, and around the wall frieze is a series of plaques bearing the arms of the Welsh counties.

The exterior of the building is a modern version of classical architecture, and conveys a sense of dignity and peace. The central portion of the main front has a semi-ecclesiastical character. It takes the form of a bold portico of simple square columns. Elaborate moulding and ornament have been avoided throughout and the architect has relied for the effectiveness of his design on good proportion and refined detail. The wings of the building are roofed with dark brown Italian pattern tiles which are in keeping with the classical character of the building.

TEMPLE OF HEALTH AND PEACE, CATHAYS PARK

Cardiff Development Committee

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH, GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Cardiff Development Committee

XII. WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.

During recent years there has been a tendency for Government departments to decentralise a good part of their work from London to provincial offices, and Cardiff now provides accommodation for many branches of the Civil Service. The first big local development of this tendency was in 1911 when, under the National Health Insurance Act, its Welsh administration was entrusted to a Board of Commissioners which was located at Cardiff in temporary offices at the City Hall. The provision of permanent offices for this organisation was under consideration by H.M. Office of Works in 1913, and an arrangement was made with the Corporation for the free gift of a site in Cathays Park. The agreement provided that the building should be completed within three years of June 24, 1915. Plans were prepared, and in 1914 work was actually commenced on the foundations, but was abandoned in the following year owing to the Great War.

The operation of the agreement was therefore deferred. After the War, in 1919, new legislation was enacted constituting a Ministry of Health, which absorbed functions of several Government departments, including the National Health Insurance Commission. The new Act provided for the establishment of a Welsh Board of Health for the purpose of administering in Wales Health Insurance and other functions. From time to time the range of duties of the Welsh Board has been considerably extended. The local staff was much increased, and additional accommodation provided for them in Park Place and elsewhere. The dispersal of staff over many centres was inconvenient and prejudicial to economical and efficient administration, and at last in the 1930's it was decided to proceed with the erection of permanent offices on the reserved site in College Avenue facing Queen Alexandra Gardens.

Plans for a suitable building to meet present requirements, with provision for later extensions, were prepared in 1934 by Mr. P. K. Hanton, F.R.I.B.A., of H.M. Office of Works, and on March 25, 1935, the ceremony of cutting the first sod was performed by the late Mr. John Rowland, Chairman of the Welsh Board of Health. The contractors were Messrs. E. Turner & Sons Ltd., and in 1937 building operations were well in hand. The work was completed early in 1938, and the opening ceremony was performed by the Minister of Health (Sir Kingsley Wood) on St. David's Day, 1938.

The building, although of greater height than existing buildings in Cathays Park—it contains a basement and four storeys—has been

clearly designed to harmonise with the other buildings, and in the opinion of competent judges it is a most effective composition. Like all other buildings on the Park it is faced with Portland stone, and is roofed with grey Welsh tiles. It is devoid of sculpture and meretricious ornament and relies for its effectiveness on good proportion and beauty of architectural form. The entire structure has been designed on very simple classical lines. The windows extend vertically over the three main floors, and a wide overhanging cornice separates the top floor from those below.

The main entrance on the south façade has the Royal Arms carved above in stone. Access is gained to a domed interior vestibule through massive bronze doors. Shields in heraldic colours bearing the arms of the Welsh counties have been arranged on the bronze window panels in the front and ends of the building. The principal administrative offices are on the first floor, where also, above the main entrance, is situated a small suite of conference rooms.

Whilst the proofs of the foregoing section were in process of revision a public announcement was made that the Government, through the Ministry of Works and Buildings, were in negotiation with the Cardiff Corporation for the acquisition of the only remaining large site at the northern end of Cathays Park, adjoining the site of the Welsh Board of Health Offices, for the purpose of erecting new Government offices to accommodate the various Civil Service staffs now distributed over many buildings in the city. The area of land involved is about $2\frac{1}{8}$ acres, and the site is valued at about £80,000. The total cost of the Government scheme is said to be approximately £1,500,000. It was popularly supposed that this site was being reserved for the erection of a Parliament House for Wales when Home Rule had been granted. It is clear now that if and when the latter project matures a new site will have to be selected, probably in the adjoining Castle grounds, the purchase of which by the Corporation from Lord Bute is the subject of present negotiations.

CARDIFF CASTLE (*from the West*)

Cardiff Development Committee

Castle Grounds, Gorsedd Ceremony, National Eisteddfod

Cardiff Development Committee

XIII. CARDIFF CASTLE.

Although this essay is primarily concerned with a modern public amenity and its development, in view of the proximity of Cathays Park to two of Cardiff's most ancient landmarks—the Castle and the Friary—it is fitting that some account should be given of the chief facts of their history, for these institutions exercised a marked influence on medieval town life and on the evolution of the borough.

There was an important military work on the site of the modern Castle during the Roman period and possibly even earlier. Recent excavations have proved that about 75 A.D. a fort was established here by a Roman general, Frontinus, and developed by his successor Agricola. The main western base of the Romans was at Caerleon, where a powerful legionary fortress had been established. It is supposed that a subsidiary fort was set up at Cardiff as an outpost of Caerleon for the purpose of protecting a newly-constructed highway leading to West Wales and also for guarding the estuary of the three rivers running into the Severn Sea at this point. The date of the Roman settlement has been deduced mainly from the fragments of Samian ware and from coins found in the locality.

The original Roman fort at Cardiff was probably a very crude defence of earth and timber, but as it was occupied for half a century or so it was doubtless much improved and strengthened from time to time. A civil settlement comprising the families of Roman legionaries and others was also established in the vicinity. In due course as conditions became more settled the need for a strong outpost at Cardiff became less urgent and the bulk of the troops were withdrawn and the defence of the locality was probably left to patrols.

When, however, early in the fourth century, sea-rovers from Ireland ravaged the coast it was found that the fortress at Caerleon was too remote to keep them in check; the outpost at Cardiff again came into use on a larger scale and more elaborate defences were now provided. A stone fortress similar in size and shape to the modern Castle enclosure was built about 300 A.D. The enclosing wall was about 10 feet thick and 20 feet high, with projecting bastions at the corners and at intermediate points, and it was backed on the inside by earthen banks. Outside the wall was a deep moat. Massive gateways were built in the north and south walls.

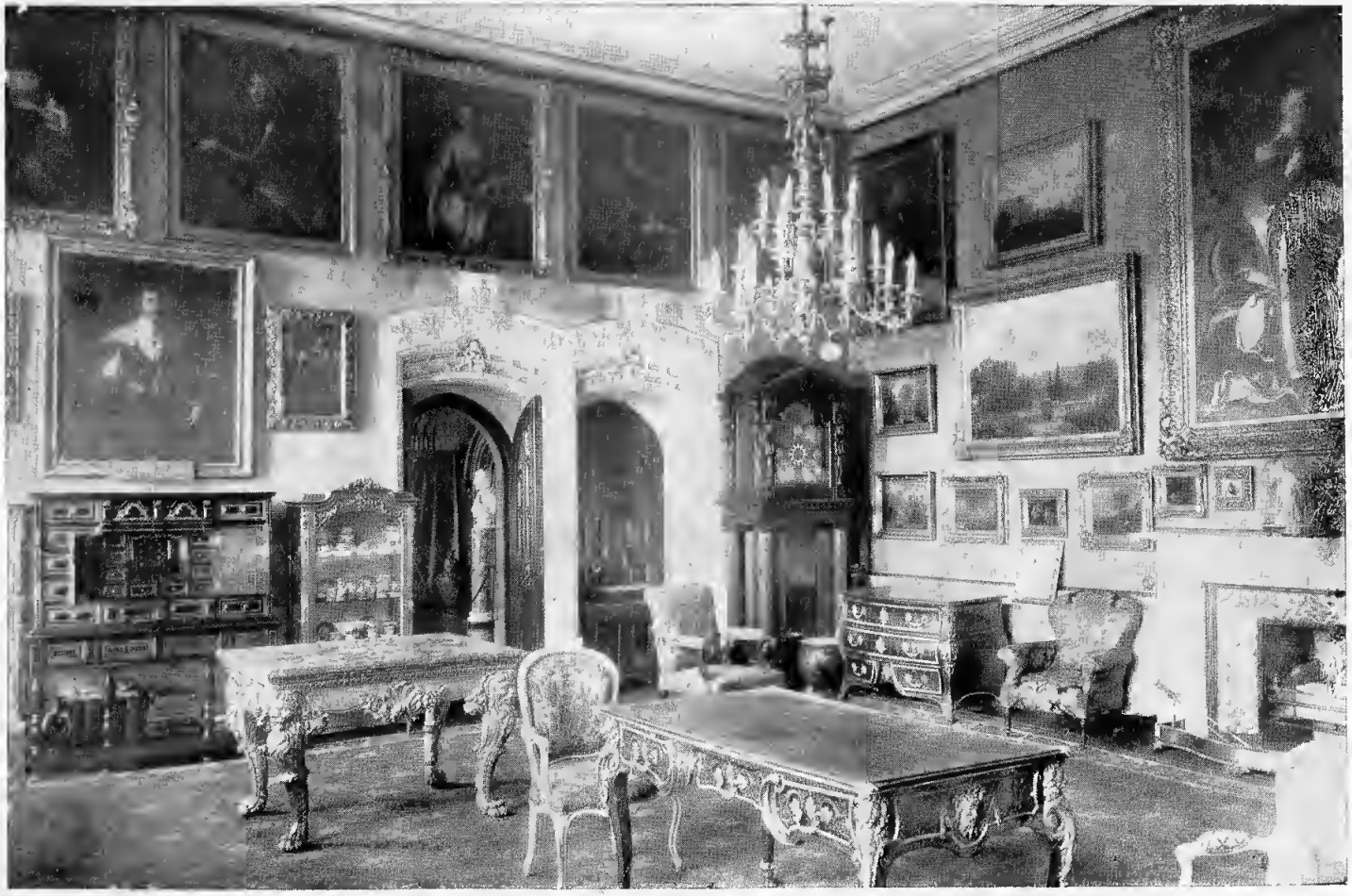
About 410 A.D. Alaric made his onslaught on Rome, and the legions were summoned from outlying parts of the empire to repel the attack.

The Cardiff stronghold was in due course vacated and it gradually fell into decay. When about 1081 the Normans came to Glamorgan they entered into occupation of the ruinous Roman defences and remodelled them to meet their requirements. The upper part of the masonry had largely perished. The first stage seems to have been to raise an earthen bank over the Roman stone and earth walls upon which timber pallisading was built. This was conceived as the first line of defence. The main defence took the form of a huge earth mound or *motte* in the north-west corner of the enclosed area on which a timber stockade fort was raised.

Later on, probably in the 12th century, the timber structure was replaced by a powerful stone keep, and from time to time this building was extended and strengthened. By the 15th century the need of such a massive erection for defence purposes had greatly diminished but the motte castle was adapted as a place primarily of residence. During the 12th and 13th centuries also the outer defences were likewise strengthened. Stone walls and towers were erected in substitution for or in addition to the earthen outer defences, and other defence walls were built within the enclosure, so dividing it into inner and outer baileys. For the stockade defences of the borough, which had been established adjoining the castle, stone walls were substituted, and outside these a deep moat was excavated. The canal of today represents the line of a section of this ancient town moat. Access to the town was obtained by a series of gates. The East Gate stood near where the canal passes under Queen Street, whilst the North Gate was situated in Kingsway, near the south-east corner of the castle. The West Gate stood near the South West corner of the Castle and near where a replica now stands.

From the earliest years of the Norman settlement Cardiff Castle was used, not only as a place of defence, but also for centuries as the administrative headquarters of the Lordship of Glamorgan. Later, when Glamorgan came under the direct control of the Crown and Parliament the castle continued in use as a centre of legal and civil administration, and later as a residence of the Herbert family, who became owners by gift of Edward VI. New buildings were provided in the outer bailey for administrative purposes, whilst new residential quarters were built within the inner bailey against the west wall of the castle. The Octagon Tower and other structures were built by the Beauchamps in the 15th century, the Herbert Tower by the Herberts in the 16th century, and later additions were made by the Herberts and their successors in title, the Lords Bute.

During the later years of the Herbert occupation the castle was much neglected and fell into a state of disrepair. When John Mountstuart, Earl of Bute (and later the first Marquess) married the Herbert heiress, he had ideas of modernising the place, and engaged a famous



CARDIFF CASTLE, THE DRAWING ROOM

Cardiff Development Committee

18th century landscape architect, "Capability" Brown, to superintend the work. The defence walls within the enclosure and some of the ancient buildings were demolished and the area laid out as a grass lawn. New building work was carried out in respect of the outer walls and the residential quarters, some of which came under severe condemnation from contemporary writers.

Much of the harm done by the first Marquess was undone by his successors, and particularly by the third Marquess. The latter was a cultured gentleman of great architectural taste and considerable archaeological knowledge. Acting on the advice of his famous architect, William Burges, A.R.A., he demolished some of the work for which his great-great-grandfather was responsible, but carried on the policy of preservation and restoration on careful and judicious lines, and also added new features, the most notable of which was the exceedingly handsome Clock Tower. Under him the south curtain wall was rebuilt, the 13th century Black Entrance Tower repaired, useful archaeological excavation made, etc. The present Marquis carried on the good work on an even more extensive scale, with the result that we have today in Cardiff a restored Castle which is probably as accurate a representation of the medieval structure as it is possible to achieve.

Whilst Cardiff rightly glories in its modern civic centre on Cathays Park, it should not, as a small section of its citizens seem to do, overlook the importance of the Castle as an incomparable public amenity. Apart from its picturesqueness and the distinctive quality of its architecture, which give character to the City, it should be cherished as a valuable historic monument which represents in masonry the transition from the Iron Age to the Age of Coal and Steel. It embodies within its fabric the craftsmanship of 20 centuries, and provides evidence of occupation and development by Roman legionaries, Norman barons and their retainers, and of medieval and later English lords and their ministers. Few towns can boast of a building of such grace and historical importance. The matter of its acquisition for the City is now under consideration. Should Lord Bute decide to part with this priceless possession, Cardiff should take it over as a sacred trust, and maintain it and watch over it with jealous care, for it is the symbol of the historic continuity of the city.*

*For a detailed account of Cardiff Castle see John P. Grant's *Cardiff Castle* (1923).

XIV. GREYFRIARS AND THE HERBERT MANSION.*

Within two or three stonethrows of the City Hall, in an enclosure built by Lord Bute, are the fragmentary remains of a medieval ecclesiastical building and of a Tudor Mansion, and as these also are monuments of historical importance, it is well that citizens should have some knowledge of the main facts concerning them. The site in question forms part of an ancient monastic settlement built by the Order of Grey Friars and occupied by them for three centuries.

The Grey Friars or Friars Minor, were a mendicant order founded by St. Francis of Assisi on the continent in 1224. They got their name from the colour of their garb. The movement spread to Britain about 1230, and brethren of the Order settled in Cardiff about 1280. The grey friars were devout men who had taken vows of poverty, and who devoted their lives to preaching and ministering to the neglected and outcast, the poor and the sick, the weak and the suffering.

On their arrival at Cardiff the second Gilbert de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan, allotted them an area of land outside the town walls where they could build their house and cultivate produce to meet their physical needs. This land probably extended from the canal and the present St. John's Schools to a point slightly north of the Feeder, and eastward towards Park Place, and westward to the North Road. The present-day names, Greyfriars Road, The Friary and Friary Gardens, perpetuate the association of the begging friars with the locality. Both the house of the Friars and the Herbert Mansion extended beyond the existing enclosure under the Greyfriars Road which was completed and opened for public use in 1928.

It is probable that the Friary Church, the site of which is clearly indicated by the existing foundations, was built by Gilbert de Clare for the service of the Friars about the time of their settlement in Cardiff, and here for a period of two hundred and fifty years they ministered to the spiritual needs of the neighbouring community. Written records of their activities are not numerous but much evidence of the history of their house and church has been derived from excavations of the ruins made by C. B. Fowler half a century ago (1891) and by J. P. Grant in 1925-8.

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* See Rev. J. M. Cronin's *Cardiff Grey Friars* for a complete account of the Order and its local associations. See also article in *Western Mail*, March 30, 1929, entitled *"Greyfriars House"* by Dr. D. R. Paterson.

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The main entrance to the Friary grounds seems to have been by a stone gateway which stood between the bend in the canal and the present St. John's School (built 1911). Along the approach to this gateway was constructed about 1914 the street at first named Priory Street, and later more accurately re-named The Friary. A short distance within the gateway to the right stood the Church, south of which lay, partly under the site of the present school, the Friary Churchyard.

So far as can be judged the friars' quarters comprised a refectory and chapter room, guest room, dormitory, kitchen and other offices with the usual cloisters. Between this building and the North Road extended the fields and gardens where the friars grew their food. Probably about a dozen friars were located in the Cardiff settlement, but as they were itinerant preachers they did not all live there at the same time. At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 there were nine brethren in residence.

The church was a fairly large structure, but, like the monastic quarters, not particularly well built. The walls consisted of local limestone and river pebbles, with dressed and moulded stone from Sutton (near Southerndown), Bath and Dundry (Gloucestershire). Some of the prepared stone may be seen in the adjoining Herbert Mansion as well as on the church floor. The type of moulding indicates that the building was of 13th century date. The dimensions seem to show that the church was an unusually large building for such a small town as Cardiff was at that period, having regard also to the existence of the Churches of St. Mary and St. John. The nave measurements were 116 feet by 64 feet, whilst the chancel was 38 feet square. It has been estimated that the building could accommodate 1,000 people. There were two aisles, and it is supposed that there was a bell steeple in the north-west corner of the nave. The windows were filled with stained glass. There was a high altar of alabaster in the chancel and five alabaster altars in the nave. The floors throughout were tiled.

Burials took place in the church as well as in the churchyard. During the excavations the skeletons of women and children as well as men were unearthed in the churchyard. These were removed and interred in the earth amongst the ruins of the friars' lodgings. About 30 skeletons were found in graves within the nave of the church, and six in the chancel. There were also two vaults containing bodies sealed in lead caskets. These were not opened, but it is supposed they contained the remains of members of the De Clare family. Amongst other notable graves were those of a Bishop of Llandaff, of Llywelyn Bren (leader of the Glamorgan Revolt in 1316), and of Sir William Fleming, the King's representative who was responsible for Llywelyn Bren's murder. The sites of the graves within the church are indicated in the ruins by stones in which are inset lead crosses.

The local Franciscans seem to have wielded considerable influence, and to have been held in high regard. Four of the friars are recorded as having served as Bishops of Llandaff in the 14th and 15th centuries. When Owain Glyndwr attacked and burnt Cardiff in 1404 and caused considerable damage to the Castle and the Town Walls he is supposed to have spared the property of the Grey Friars on account of the love he had for them.

The Grey Friars served the community at Cardiff until the Dissolution. It will be recalled that Henry VIII quarrelled with the Pope because the latter disapproved of the King's divorce of his first wife Catherine and of his marriage with Anne Boleyn. Henry therefore declared himself to be head of the Church in England and set about the task of destroying Papal institutions. Monasteries and like institutions were dissolved, and Roman Catholic practices and symbols in the churches suppressed.

The first monastic bodies to be dissolved were the minor orders. In July 1534 the King's agent, Grand Visitor Hilsey, visited Greyfriars, took an inventory of the friars' goods and chattels and of their church plate and vestments, and required the resident brethren to disown the supremacy of the Pope and acknowledge the King as Head of the Church. These concessions, however, did not save them, and four years later, in 1538, Visitor Ingham forced the nine friars then resident to sign a document surrendering their house and church, and all their possessions to the deputy bailiff of the town acting as custodian for the Crown. An inventory of the friars' possessions is given in the *Augmentation Proceedings* of 1540. The property confiscated included a garden, three chambers, a kitchen, a stable with other houses there specified, a barn, a meadow, two acres of land, a close called Cow Close and another called "grette (? grey) ffryers close." The land covered an area of about 6 acres.

After the Suppression the church was probably demolished by order of the Lord Visitor. The other buildings seem to have been let by the Crown to Alderman John White in 1541, but there seems to have been some irregularity about the transaction. About the same time one John Norrys claimed to have purchased the property from Felice Williams, whose husband was said to have bought it for £16 18s. 10d. from the King's Commission at the time of the Dissolution. Legal proceedings were taken against Norrys by White and others for having removed stone and other material from the buildings. I do not know how the action ended, but in 1545-6 the Crown sold the property, subject to lease, together with a number of other properties in other localities to James Gunter and William Lewis.

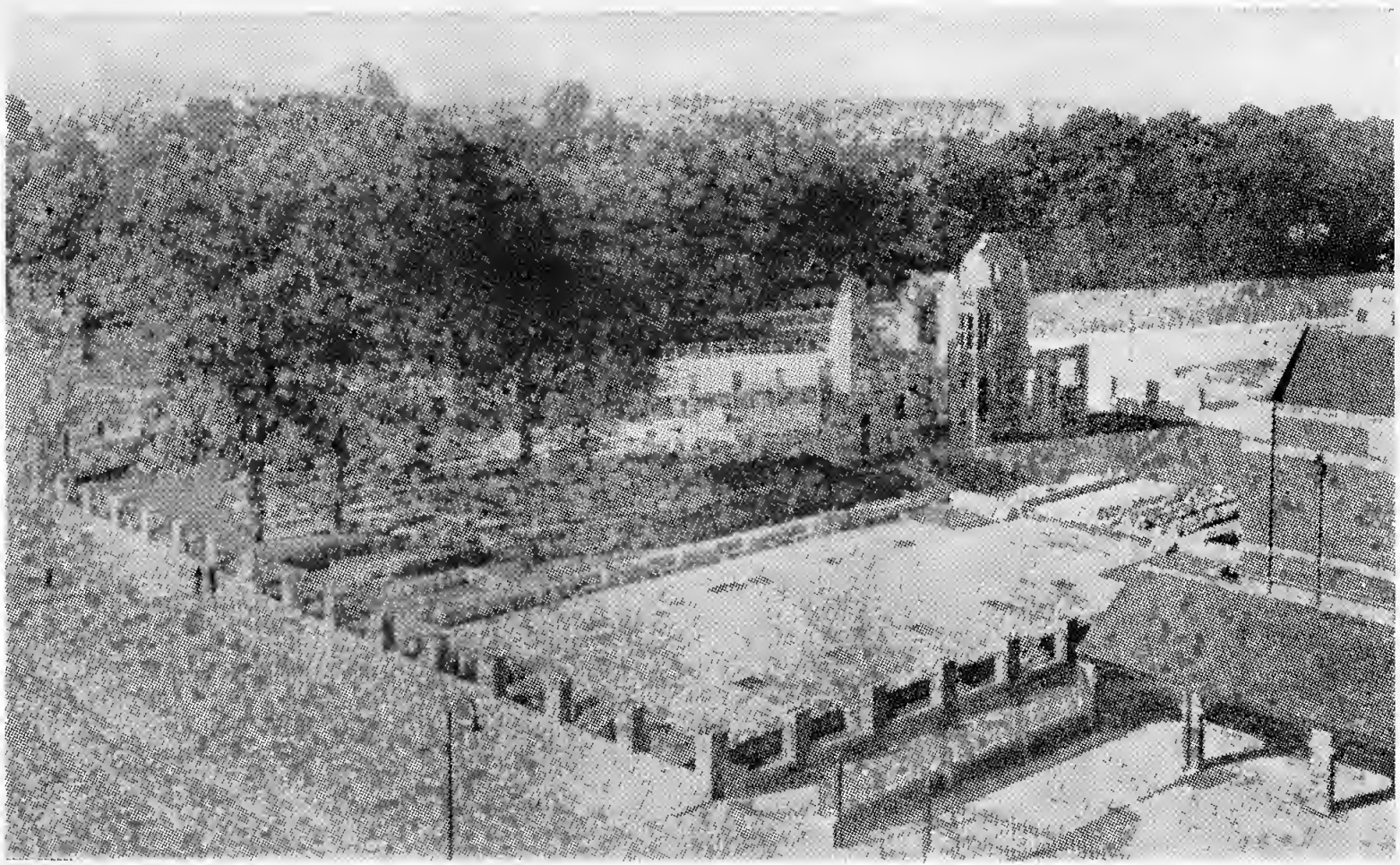
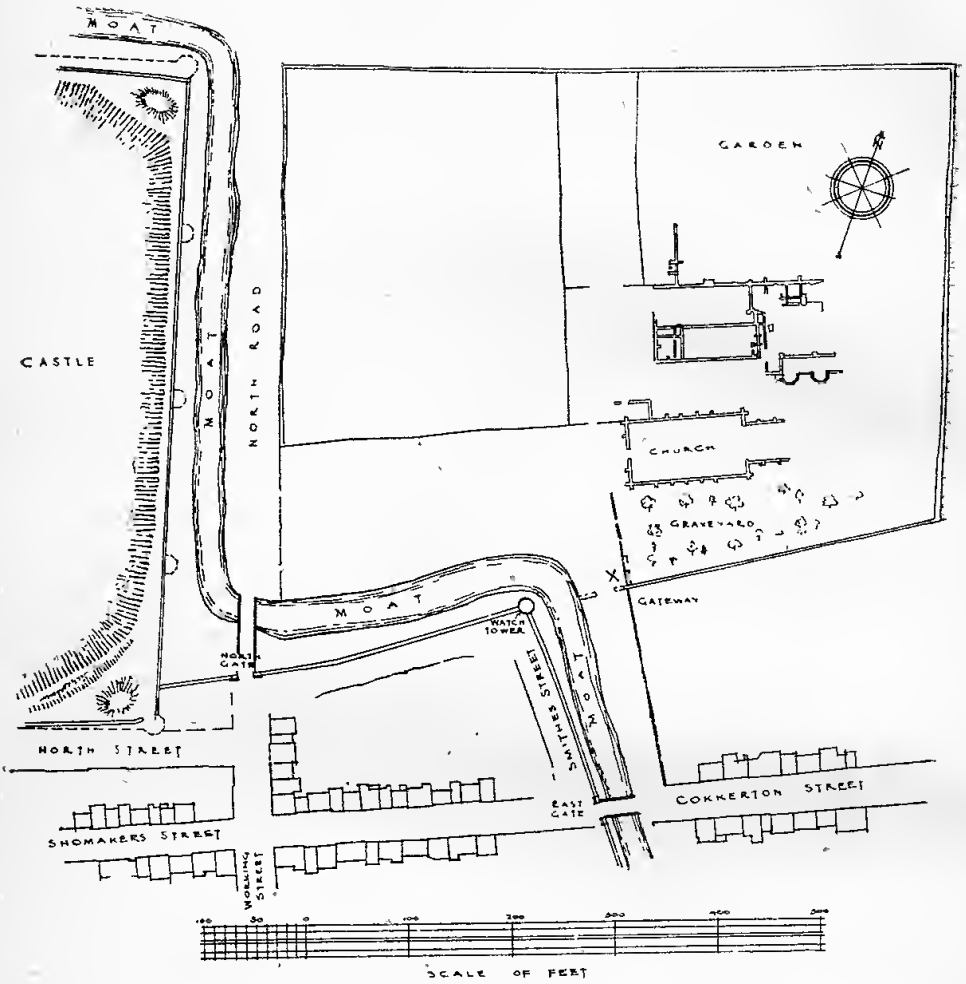


Photo by] A Bird's-Eye View of the Site of Cardiff Grey Friars, 1928 [*Osborne Long, Cardiff*

On the extreme right is St. John's Schools, built on the site of the Churchyard. The Church is in foreground. Beyond the nave, amongst the trees are the remains of the Friary, and beyond the chancel, the ruins of Herbert House.



GREY FRIARS, CARDIFF.

Suggested general plan of site and environs (based on *Speed*).

Soon afterwards Gunter sold Greyfriars to Sir George Herbert of Swansea and Cogan Pill, a brother of Sir William Herbert (afterwards Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Cardiff). Sir George, who died in 1570, was the ancestor of the Herberts of Greyfriars. He was succeeded after his death by his grandson, Sir William Herbert, who built the Herbert Mansion. Rice Merrick, writing in 1578, refers to Greyfriars where "Sir William Herbert, Knt., hath builded a house of late." A record of 1586 mentions that property settled by him on his wife and his issue included "the site of the late dissolved house, called the graye ffryers of Cardiff."* Another writer in 1596 also mentions the Herbert "who builded a sumptuous house yet called the ffryers."

From Speede's Plan of Cardiff (1610) we are able to gain some little idea of the size and form of this house which, next to the Castle, was at that period the largest house in the town. It was a three-storeyed structure with four tall gable ends and a castellated tower rising above high-pitched roofs. It seems to have been square in shape with probably a central courtyard. Fragments of the building, including the large bay windows, are still *in situ*. No trace of the Friary ruins appears on Speede's plan, and it is not unlikely that these were buried and the house erected over part of the site.

The mansion was probably occupied by the Herbert family until the 18th century, by which time the name seems to have been changed to Whitefriars. Possibly by this time the association of the property with the *Grey* Friars had been forgotten, and the person responsible for renaming the house had got the idea that the property had belonged to the Carmelites, the *White* Friars. It was from the application of this name to the Herbert Mansion that the mistaken conclusion was drawn by early writers that there had been a settlement of White Friars in the town.

Let us now return to the Herbert family. The first Herbert of Greyfriars, Sir William, died in 1609, and was succeeded by his brother, Sir John Herbert. The Herbert tombs in St. John's Church are those of these two brothers. After the death of Sir John in 1617 the Friars property passed to his nephew, William Herbert, upon whose death in 1645 his grand-nephew, William Herbert of Cogan and Llandough, inherited. The property continued in possession of the Cogan family until the end of the century, when the line ended in co-heiresses. Much prolonged litigation then ensued in regard to the succession, and a Private Act of Parliament had to be passed to settle the dispute. Occupation of Greyfriars by the Herberts seems to have ceased about 1730 and the property was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

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* *A Book of Glamorganshire Antiquities.*

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There are records of 1737 and 1745 relating to the prosection of persons for stealing timber and other materials therefrom. The land, however, continued in the ownership of the Cogan Herberts until 1790, when the whole of the property of that family was sold by auction. The first Marquess of Bute at this sale bought the Friars as well as Cogan and Llandough and what remained of the former possessions of the Monks of Tewkesbury and Margam. The Margam properties acquired by Lord Bute possibly included land attached to the ancient Grange of Margam (whence Grange Town) on the west moors of Cardiff, at Llystalybont and on the moors at Roath.

The Herberts of Greyfriars and Cogan during the latter part of the 16th century, despite their wealth and influence and their relationship to the Earl of Pembroke, Lord of Cardiff, seem to have been a troublesome and law-breaking set of people. In 1577 Nicholas Herbert of Cogan and Cardiff, brother of Sir William Herbert of Greyfriars, in that year Sheriff of Glamorgan, was found guilty with others, including a William Herbert, possibly of Greyfriars, of consorting with pirates at Cardiff and was heavily fined. Later both he and his brother were prosecuted for unlawful conduct on more than one occasion.

In 1595 both brothers were involved with their servants and friends in legal proceedings at the Court of Star Chamber, resulting from riotous conduct, assaults on the Bailiff and certain citizens of Cardiff, and breaking into the gaol and releasing some of their followers who had been arrested.

For weeks they and their supporters paraded the town, weaponed and armed, and terrorised citizens and other people having business in the town. One of William Herbert's servants died as the result of injuries sustained during the affray, and an attempt was made by the Herbert faction to fasten the responsibility on the townsmen. The high sheriff, Edward Kemys, of the Cefn Mably family, a friend of the Herbert brothers, ordered his under-sheriff to pack the inquest jury with persons who favoured the Herbert interest. About the same time at local court proceedings Sir William Herbert, despite the protests of citizens, insisted on the hearing of counter charges of rioting made by him against the townsmen being conducted in private, and demeaned himself in an intimidating manner against the justices and jury. Both Herberts were heavily fined by the Court of Star Chamber, and Nicholas Herbert was removed from the commission of the peace. The other chief offenders, besides being severely fined, were ordered to be twice pilloried as an example to other offenders "in these parts, where these enormities and outrages do more often happen than in the other parts of the realm."

Until about forty years ago the Greyfriars site was not visible to the general public and its existence was known only to a relatively few. The surrounding streets had not been constructed and the site had not been enclosed. The opening up of the locality commenced about 1907-8, when Greyfriars Road was planned and partly constructed from Park Place towards the North Road. Soon afterwards a scheme was prepared by the Principality Building Society for the erection of a large commercial building. The old St. John's School facing Queen Street, adjoining the Canal, together with land at its rear, was acquired from Lord Bute for the purpose in 1909 conditionally on a strip of land being reserved outside the canal boundary for a 20 foot street. Negotiations were opened with the Corporation, who desired a wider road approach from Queen Street to Cathays Park. The land had cost the building society £13 15s. 9d. per square yard and 360 square yards were offered to the Corporation for £8 3s. 4d. per yard, subject to certain conditions which presumably included the right to construct underground premises beneath the proposed road. These premises later became the printing works of Priory Press Ltd. An additional strip of land was also acquired from Lord Bute.

In 1911 a Local Government Board Enquiry was held into the Corporation's application for a loan sanction of £4,000 for the purchase of the land and the execution of the necessary works for the construction of a 40 foot road. City Engineer Harpur in his evidence estimated that for this sum of £4,000 the Corporation were getting benefit equivalent to £13,186. By about this time the old St. John's School had been demolished and the new St. John's School erected on its present site. The construction of the new street was well in hand in 1914. The Greyfriars Road was extended from the New Theatre westward between 1925 and 1928, during which period also the Greyfriars ruins were excavated on behalf of Lord Bute by his architect, Mr. J. P. Grant. and afterwards enclosed. Greyfriars Road was opened for public use in July, 1928.

A fitting conclusion to this essay is the following eloquent passage from Father J. M. Cronin's authoritative work on the ancient friars:—

> "Two centuries had gone since the Friars left. It was then the turn of the Herberts to go. Two hundred years more have elapsed and more wonderful changes have taken place. Today Crockerton Street is Queen Street—a great modern highway with palatial buildings. On the northern side of Grey Friars, a majestic pile has arisen—the material embodiment of the newer glories of a greater Cardiff. It has become the centre of civic, and national greatness—the focus of the material and intellectual life of the people. Men pass to and fro across the place with the fever and

fret of Cardiff's throbbing life. Sometimes, as they go, they must muse on the ever-changing glories of the place—so much strikes the eye and arrests the attention, sending the mind back into the storied past. There is the old Roman fortress with its great wall, the foundations of which, laid nearly two thousand years ago, have just been set bare to remind us of what Cardiff knew of Roman power. Rising above it is the Norman Keep, whose fretted walls are outlined against the sky, which recalls the memory of Cardiff's feudal glories that have gone for ever. There is the ruined gable of Herbert House which watches, sentinel-like, over the ruined fane—a medieval spiritual home—wherein man prayed to God, and where the bones of noble, bishop, friar, warrior, chieftain, burgher, soldier, citizen, all lie crumbling in the dust. That ruin, too, watches over the home of the Grey Friars of which scarce a vestige remains, or of the names of the many men who found shelter and rest there, after the toil of missionary work for God in the land."

There is a possibility that the site of the ancient house of the Greyfriars may again be utilized for religious purposes. There has from time to time been talk of the building at Cardiff of a new Roman Catholic Cathedral for Wales, and three sites have been under consideration for the purpose—one the burial ground of the Bute family within the precincts of the Castle, the 'reserved acre' in Cathays Park, and the Greyfriars ruins. The first of these sites seems hitherto to have been favoured, but in the event of the Castle lands being acquired by the Corporation for public purposes it is not unlikely the Greyfriars site may be preferred, in which case the ancient home of the Franciscans may become the location of the capital church of the Roman Catholic order in the Principality.

THE END.

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